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PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE KILKENNY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
1853.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

Held in the Tholsel Rooms, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1853,

THE MARQUIS OF ORMONDE, in the Chair.

The following Members were elected:—Edward H. Paget, Esq., St. John's College, Oxford : proposed by the Marquis of Ormonde.

John Potter, Esq., Kilkenny, Albert Way, Esq., F.S.A., Wonham Manor, Reigate, Surrey, Joseph Wilson, Esq., Lurgan, and Henry Meara, Esq., Parthenon Club, Regent-street, London : proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Patrick R. Welch, Esq., Newtown Welch, County of Kilkenny, and Yaxley Hall, Eye, Suffolk : proposed by Mr. Joseph Burke.

Major Richard Dunne, Brittas, Queen's County : proposed by Mr. T. L. Cooke.

William Atkins, Esq., Architect, Cork : proposed by Mr. John Windele.

John Hartford, Esq., Solicitor, Kilkenny : proposed by Mr. J. G. A. Prim.

The Rev. W. Wright, D.D., Medmenham, Great Marlow, Bucks : proposed by Mr. J. O'Daly.

The Honorary Secretary then read the following Annual Report for 1852:—

“ In rendering up an account of their trust for the year which has just expired, your Committee feel that they may be justly accused of a repetition of former reports in the observations now to be laid before the Society ; however, if at any time these qualities are not tiresome it is when continued prosperity is the cause of want of variety. The marked success which has attended the progress of the Kilkenny Archæological Society during the last twelve months will be sufficiently apparent when it is known that ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN new members, amongst whom are many names of which the Society may well feel proud, have been added to its ranks since the last annual meeting ; several of whom, being anxious to possess perfect copies of the Society's Transactions, have commenced their subscriptions from the year 1849, insomuch that the impression of that year's Transactions is now out of print ; and as many of the members have expressed a wish for its republication, it will be put to press as soon as a sufficient sum, at 5s. each, has been subscribed by those requiring it. During the same period but ten names have been removed from the Society's books from death and other causes ; thus leaving a clear gain of one hundred and one accessions. With this addition, and allowing for deaths and other casualties, the *bona fide* list of the Society's members extends

to the large number of **THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE** names—your Committee cannot pass from this gratifying topic without recording their deep sense of the zeal which has actuated very many of the members—a zeal to which the present prosperity of the Society is mainly owing, and if they only name Richard Hitchcock, Esq., of Trinity College, Dublin, the Very Rev. the Dean of Waterford, Joseph Burke, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, John Windele, Esq., Cork, M. O'Donnell, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, the Rev. Philip Moore, R.C.C., Joseph Greene, Esq., jun., and T. L. Cooke, Esq., Parsonstown, it is not that others have not had the interests of the Society at heart, but that the occasion does not admit of that extension of the list which might easily be made.

"But much as has been done, there is yet room for further exertion. Less than five hundred paying members will not enable the Society fully to carry out the objects originally proposed, and until that limit at least is attained, its friends should not remit their exertions. To all who are disposed to follow the good example set by the gentlemen already named, and who desire to make more widely known the doings and objects of the Society, the Secretaries will be found ready to supply circulars, and all other necessary information.

"The number and importance of the papers contributed to the several meetings may also be pointed to as an evidence of the Society's progress; amongst the contributors to the Transactions of the past year many new names will also be found enrolled.

"The mass of ancient deeds, charters, and other unpublished MSS. communicated (amongst which are very many important documents supplied by our valued fellow-members, Patrick Watters, Esq., and James F. Ferguson, Esq., by the former from the Corporation Archives of Kilkenny, and by the latter from the Irish Exchequer Records) far exceed the means available towards their publication. An addition to the original rules of the Society, calculated to meet this emergency, will be proposed for the consideration of the members.

"The delay in the issue of the Transactions for 1851 is a source of much regret to your Committee; but the members may be assured that it has arisen solely from a desire to present them with the work in such a form as will prove creditable to the Society; and in a few weeks it is hoped that the part for 1851 will be issued, with an index and title page, completing the First Volume of the Society's Transactions.

"Your Committee have again to claim your thanks for the Mayor and Corporation of Kilkenny, and the members of the Local Press, whose kind co-operation has been continued to the Society.

"Many valuable additions have been made to your Museum and Library during the past year; the former, indeed, has quite outgrown the accommodation assigned for its keeping by the kindness of the Corporation. Amongst the accessions to its stores, your Committee must not fail to record the valuable donation of antiquities discovered in the cuttings of the Limerick and Waterford Railway at Tibroughny, in the Barony of Iverk, and county of Kilkenny for which the Society is indebted to John H. Leech, Esq., of Carrick-on-Suir, and ——— Edwards, Esq., Contractor's Engineer of the works.

"In conclusion, your Committee are happy to be able to inform you that the Special Fund for the reparation of the venerable Abbey of Jerpoint progresses most favourably; and, from the wide-spread interest displayed, they have little doubt that the requisite sum will ere long be completed, and that before this time next year all repairs necessary to arrest the progress of decay, and preserve to future generations that exquisite specimen of the architectural skill of former ages, shall have been thoroughly effected."

The Rev. James Graves, Acting Treasurer, then brought up the Accounts of the Society for the past year, as under :

| Charge.                                            |   | £    | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|------|----|----|
| 1852.                                              |   |      |    |    |
| JAN. 1.—To balance from last year's account        | . | 32   | 15 | 5½ |
| " 257 subscriptions for the year 1852, at 5s. each | . | 64   | 5  | 0  |
| " 24 do. arrears for the year 1849, at do.         | . | 6    | 0  | 0  |
| " 30 do. do. for the year 1850, at do.             | . | 7    | 10 | 0  |
| " 62 do. do. for the year 1851, at do.             | . | 15   | 10 | 0  |
| " Special fund for making cast of Kilfane Monument | . | 2    | 10 | 0  |
|                                                    |   | £128 | 10 | 5½ |

**Discharge.**

| 1852.     |                                                    |   | £ | s. | d.         |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|------------|
| Dec. 31.— | By illustrations for Transactions of the year 1851 | . | . | .  | .          |
|           | do. do. 1850                                       | . | . | 6  | 16 11      |
|           | Postages . . . . .                                 | . | . | 6  | 3 3        |
|           | Fuel . . . . .                                     | . | . | 0  | 4 0        |
|           | Messengers . . . . .                               | . | . | 0  | 8 10       |
|           | Carriage of parcels . . . . .                      | . | . | 1  | 2 0        |
|           | General printing and stationery . . . . .          | . | . | 4  | 12 6       |
|           | Commission to agents . . . . .                     | . | . | 1  | 10 0       |
|           | Travelling expenses . . . . .                      | . | . | 0  | 18 10      |
|           | Bookbinders' bills . . . . .                       | . | . | 1  | 2 6        |
|           | Cost of three casts of Kilfane monument . . . . .  | . | . | 11 | 0 0        |
|           | Sundries and petty expenses . . . . .              | . | . | 5  | 5 6        |
|           | Balance in Treasurer's hands . . . . .             | . | . | 80 | 1 1½       |
|           |                                                    |   |   |    | £128 10 5½ |

The Committee and Officers for the year 1853 were then elected, as under :—

**PRESIDENT.**

**THE VERY REV. CHARLES VIGNOLES, D.D., Dean of Ossory.**

**VICE-PRESIDENTS.**

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF KILKENNY.**

**THE HIGH SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF KILKENNY.**

**THE HIGH SHERIFF OF THE CITY OF KILKENNY.**

**TREASURER.**

**ROBERT CANE, Esq., M. D.**

**HONORARY SECRETARIES.**

**REV. JAMES GRAVES, A. B.**

**JOHN G. AUGUSTUS PRIM.**

**COMMITTEE.**

**JAMES BLAKE, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.**

**REV. JOHN BROWNE, LL.D.**

**JOSEPH BURKE, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.**

**SAMSON CARTER, Esq., jun., C.E., M.R.I.A.**

**REV. LUKE FOWLER, A.M.**

**HERBERT F. HORE, Esq.**

**JOHN JAMES, Esq., L.R.C.S.I.**

**REV. PHILIP MOORE, R.C.C.**

**MATTHEW O'DONNELL, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.**

**REV. JOHN QUINN, P.P.**

**THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF WATERFORD.**

**JOHN WINDELE, Esq.**

Mr. Graves, on the part of Mr. H. F. Hore, gave notice of moving at next meeting that the title of the Society be changed to "The Kilkenny and South-east of Ireland Archæological Society," together with some other verbal alterations in the Rules; and also that the following additional rule be adopted :—

"It shall be optional with Members to subscribe ten shillings annually, in addition to the subscription of five shillings which constitutes their membership; and should one hundred such additional subscribers be procured, an Annual Volume shall be printed, to consist of antiquarian and historical rare or unpublished matter of a local nature; such Volume to be distinct from the Transactions of the Society, and to be supplied solely to each subscriber of ten shillings. Should any Member be willing to defray the cost of printing, &c., he shall be entitled to nominate a paper for the Annual Volume, under the revision of the Committee."

The following presentations were received, and thanks for them ordered to be given to the donors:—

By the Rev. James Meara, a leaden impression of a monastic seal.

By the Rev. James Graves, an ancient half-pike, apparently about two hundred years old.

By Mr. Joseph Greene, jun., a manuscript, entitled A General Abstract of the Receipts and Issues of the Public Revenue, Taxes, and Loans, from the 5th November, 1688, to Lady Day, 1702. This M.S. is beautifully written, and contains a great deal of most important historical and statistical information.

By Mr. J. G. Robertson, a Report on the state of the Cathedral of St. Canice, in the year 1813, drawn up at that time by the late William Robertson, Esq., Architect.

By Mr. Prim, on the part of Messrs. Nash, Publishers, Strand, London, a pedigree of the De Lacy family.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, its *Journal*, No. 34.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association, *Archæologia Cambrensis*, No. 21.

By the Cambridge Camden Society, two numbers of its Publications, 8vo series.

By Mr. Albert Way, *Notice of a Seal formed of bone, discovered in the Abbey of St. Albans.*

Mr. Henry O'Neill read a paper on the architectural remains comprised within the cemetery of Aghaviller in this county, consisting of a strongly-fortified tower, being an appendage to a church, of which latter but small remains are extant, and an ancient Round Tower, of which but the lower portion now exists. These were illustrated by a ground-plan, and several beautiful drawings. The portion of the paper relative to the Round Tower, is as follows:—

"The pillar tower is fifty-one feet in circumference at the base; hence the diameter is sixteen feet two inches. There are two doorways; one at the ground level, of cut stone, rectangular, with places for hanging-irons; a small bolt hole, and a rebate are on the inside; it is five feet two inches high, by two feet ten and a-half inches wide, and looks N.E. The other doorway, and in all probability the original one, is about thirteen feet up from the ground to the door-sill. It is higher and narrower than the one below, and looks north. A rectangular ope, of dressed stone, is situated at about twenty-seven feet up; it may be three feet high by two wide; its aspect is S.S.W. The tower terminates at a few feet above this ope, being only a dilapidated stump.

"At about twelve, and twenty-six feet high, from the ground level, there are, on the inside, bearing-courses made of flag-stones about six inches thick, and projecting four inches—the wall above them recesses for a short way. The inside of the tower is rather rough, but on the outside, where not weathered, the wall is very smooth, of excellent stone, carefully spawled, and dressed to the curve.

"If this pillar-tower had originally the usual proportions of such buildings, it was in all probability at least one hundred and ten feet high. The tower of St. Canice is one

hundred feet high, and only fourteen feet five inches in the diameter of the base; being above six diameters and a-half in height—the same proportions to the tower of Aghaviller would give the elevation I have mentioned. The castle and pillar tower are built with a stone resembling the fine-grained sand-stone, which is got in the locality.

“Respecting the purpose for which the pillar-tower was intended, I shall not now offer any opinion. The views propounded by Dr. Petrie have met with such general approval, that to express dissent from them may appear to savour more of daring thoughtlessness, than any calm reflection—nevertheless, a very careful study of the Doctor’s work on the Round Towers of Ireland, and a very careful examination of several of the towers themselves, have convinced me that the learned and talented author of that very beautiful essay has not stated the real purpose for which those remarkable buildings were erected. At present, however, there is a certain task to be performed. Dr. Petrie promised to give us the particulars of our several pillar towers, but as this promise has been for several years unfulfilled, let others take up the task—let us have the particulars of every pillar tower in Ireland, or elsewhere. Until the facts are fairly before us, it is idle to be speculating.

“I have given my humble contribution towards this desirable object; and I venture to say that the facts I have brought forward, even in this single case, are sufficient, at least, to create a doubt as to the correctness of Dr. Petrie’s opinions. Now, however, I confine myself to expressing my most decided dissent to Dr. Petrie’s conclusions, which I do for the purpose of calling attention to the subject, in the hope that other labourers may engage in the important work of giving a description of every pillar tower now remaining, as well as of the localities in which towers are known to have formerly stood.”

A paper was then read, contributed by John Windele, Esq., Cork, on an Ancient Cemetery at Ballymacus, which will be found in full at p. 230, *ante*.

A paper by R. R. Brash, Esq., Architect, Cork, was then submitted to the Meeting; it was entitled, *An Account of some Antiquities in the Neighbourhood of Buttevant*, and will be found in full at p. 265, *ante*.

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## GENERAL MEETING,

Held in the Tholsel Rooms, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16th, 1853,

THE REV. JAMES MEASE, A.M., in the Chair.

The following Members were elected:—The Rev. George Stanley Faber, B.D., Prebendary of Salisbury, Sherburn House, Durham; George Hitchcock, Esq., St. Paul’s Church-yard, London; William Lyster, Esq., J.P., Cloghmanty Mills, Freshford; Samuel Gordon, Esq., M.D., Hume-street, Dublin; Alfred John Dunkin, Esq., Dartford, Kent; and John Stratford Kirwan, Esq., 15, Merrion-square, East, Dublin: proposed by Mr. Richard Hitchcock.

Frederick Villiers Clarendon, Esq., Assistant Architect, Board of Works, Dublin: proposed by Mr. Samson Carter.

The Rev. William Drew, Rector of Youghal: proposed by Mr. Edward Fitzgerald.

William Atkinson, Esq., Resident Engineer, Waterford and Kilkenny Railway; David Kerr, Esq., John-street; and William Trew, Esq., Lacken Cottage: proposed by the Rev. J. Graves.

Mr. Richard Furniss, Kilkenny: proposed by Mr. J. G. Robertson.

The following presentations were received, and thanks for them returned to the donors:—

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, its *Quarterly Journal*, No. 36.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association, *Archæologia Cambrensis*, No. 13.

By the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, its *Proceedings and Papers*, 1851—1852.

By Mr. Joseph Greene, jun., Manuscript Extracts from the Issue Book of the Exchequer, from the year 1654 to 1659.

By Mr. James G. Robertson, a Manuscript Report on the state of the fabrick of the Cathedral of St. Canice in the year 1813, by the late William Robertson, Esq., Architect.

By Mr. John O'Daly, a Manuscript Treatise on Gothic Architecture.

By Mr. James Quinn, Solicitor, the *Trial of Dr. Henry Sacheverell*; Milner's *Inquiry into the Antiquities of Ireland*; *Two Dialogues on the Ground of the Laws*; and *Rules for the Direction of Cities*.

By Mr. Richard Caulfield, Cork, *Sigilla Ecclesiæ Hiberniæ Illustrata*, part 1.

By Mr. Joseph Greene, jun., a fine impression of the great seal of queen Elizabeth, originally appended to some charter.

By Mr. J. K. Aylward, a brass pocket ring-dial, found in a sand-pit near Shankill, county of Kilkenny.

By Dr. James, Mr. J. R. Phayer, Mr. P. M. Delaney, Mr. T. Dunne, and Mr. James Smith, various ancient coins.

Mr. T. J. Tenison, Portneligan, county of Armagh, in forwarding a drawing of a chalice-shaped stone antique in his possession, resembling one found near Jerpoint and already in the Society's Museum—the original use of which has not yet been fully settled—sent the following communication to the Rev. J. Graves:—

"I enclose, as promised, the drawing of the stone censer (for such I believe it to be), found, A.D. 1804, in the royal but Pagan cemetery of Cruachan, called Rathcroghan, in the county of Roscommon. It is  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches high,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter at top, and nearly 11 round the middle—the sketch being about half the size of the original. It is rudely shaped, similar to the one you showed me in Kilkenny, and was, in all probability, used by the Northern nations, Cimbri, and Irish Druids (if there were such folks), in the celebration of their religious sacrifices."

The Chairman exhibited a small ring of black slate, curiously ornamented by dots and chevrons, and perforated apparently for the purpose of being strung on a necklace. It bore a strong resemblance to the curious jet beads exhibited on a former occasion by Mr. J. F. Shearman. This ring was found at Wells, near Woodsgift, Kilkenny.

Mr. Robertson exhibited drawings of various remains of antiquity in the county of Kilkenny, executed half a century since; and amongst them a ground-plan and front elevation of the old Kilkenny theatre.

Mr. Hitchcock exhibited a St. Patrick's penny, found on the shore of Smerwick Harbour.

In accordance with notice given at the last meeting of the Society, by Herbert F. Hore, Esq., Pole Hore, Wexford, the Hon. Secretary on behalf of that gentleman moved certain alterations in the rules of the Society, which had reference to the change of its title, and the making of some arrangement for the publication of original historical documents.

The change of the title consisted in the addition of the words "and South-East of Ireland," making the name of the Association run thus—"KILKENNY AND SOUTH-EAST OF IRELAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY." Mr. Hore promised a large accession of members from amongst the nobility and gentry of Wexford upon that county being thus recognised as coming within the district of the Society's operations; and there was every reason to believe that a similar result will ensue in the other surrounding counties. The second proposition was the adoption of the following additional rule:—

"It shall be optional with members to subscribe Ten Shillings annually, in addition to the subscription of Five Shillings which constitutes their membership; and that, should one hundred such additional subscribers be procured, an Annual Volume shall be printed, to consist of antiquarian and historical rare or unpublished matter of a local nature; such Volume to be distinct from the Transactions of the Society, and to be supplied solely to each subscriber of Ten Shillings. Should any member be willing to defray the cost of printing, &c., he shall be entitled to nominate a paper for the Annual Volume, under the revision of the Committee."

Mr. Fitzsimons suggested that as the Society had succeeded so well under its original appellation it might be as well not to change it; however, he would make no objection, if the meeting approved of the alteration, as the title of "Kilkenny" was still to be retained.

The Chairman pointed out the importance of obtaining a means of publishing ancient records connected with the locality. He understood that besides the rich stores of manuscripts waiting for publication in the hands of the Secretaries of the Society, and existing in the archives of the city of Kilkenny, Mr. Hore was prepared to edit many interesting documents relating to Kilkenny and Wexford; the Dean of Waterford had also forwarded to the Society some documents calculated to be of the greatest interest, connected with that city; and, in fact, the abundance of the material, from which to choose, was the only matter to embarrass them. To-day there was a most valuable contribution from Mr. O'Daly, of Anglesea-street, Dublin; being a transcript, accompanied by a translation, of an ancient Irish tract on the inauguration of Cathal Crobhdearg O'Connor, King of Connaught, A. D. 1224; and to which was appended most important notes by Dr. O'Donovan. Documents such as these, and thus illustrated, it was unnecessary to dwell upon the necessity of preserving.

The alterations in the rules, proposed by Mr. Hore then passed un-animously.

The following paper, by the Rev. J. Graves, accompanying the exhibition of a piece of silver ring-money purchased by him for the Society's Museum, was then read:—

"The fine specimen of silver ring-money which I lay before the meeting has been secured, I am happy to say, for the Society's Museum, where I trust it may form the nucleus of a collection of that interesting class of antiquities, whether of gold, silver, bronze, or stone. It is of the purest silver, and weighs 14 dwts. 1 gr. Its formation is of the rudest kind, being simply a flat strip of silver, three inches and two-tenths long, somewhat more than four-tenths of an inch broad, tapering to about three-tenths at the ends, and about one-eighth of an inch thick. The ring shape was apparently given to it by being hammered round a rough bar till the ends met—the marks of the bar are visible on the inside.

"I do not propose to enter on the question of Irish ring-money, so ably and satisfactorily handled by Sir William Betham and Mr. Lindsay, and amongst our own members by Dr. Cane and Mr. Windele, but will content myself with stating my own belief that the case has been more clearly proved in regard to rings of gold and bronze, than of silver. I cannot, however, here refrain from quoting some instances of the mixed metal alluded to being actually used as money. Every one is well acquainted with the custom prevalent in ancient Pagan times amongst many nations, of placing a piece of money in the mouth of the deceased, to pay his way in the other world. By a letter which I recently received from T. Crofton Croker, Esq., I learn that he was presented on August 22nd, 1843, with a bronze ring, found in the mouth of a skeleton discovered in a cairn above Crookhaven, in the county of Cork; along with this skeleton, a leaf-shaped sword and a spear-head of bronze were also found, and he possesses one or two other similar rings, taken from the mouths of skeletons discovered in nearly similar situations on the south and south-west coast of Ireland. These important facts would seem not only to confirm the idea, long held, of the currency of bronze rings as money, but also to connect cairn-burial, which we know preceded cremation, with that race which used the bronze ring-money, celts, swords, and spear-heads, which our island yields up from its bosom in such quantities. But with regard to the silver rings found here, yet with much less frequency than in Scotland or England, the case is different. Silver rings are usually discovered in hoards, and accompanied by ingots and small fragments of the same metal, unwrought or simply flattened into strips or plates.

"The ring before the meeting is no exception to this rule, it is the sole remaining, or at least discoverable, portion of a hoard discovered in the cuttings of the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway, opposite the house of a farmer, named Edward Walsh, at Derrynahinch, in this county, so long since as September, 1851. The hoard, which consisted of about a quart full of rings and pieces of silver, was found resting on the rock, about two feet under the surface, covered by a slab of stone about eight inches square. There were about twelve or fourteen rings, some of them flat, like that before the meeting, others twisted like a curb-chain. Accompanying the rings were many flat pieces of silver, some square, about the size of a shilling, others of different sizes, and amongst them were oblong flatted pieces, tapered at the end, exactly like the ring which has been preserved, but straight. When the hoard was thrown out from its hiding-place, the pieces of silver being oxidized, and consequently black, attracted little attention, the greater part of them were shovelled into waggons and 'tipped' over the embankment; whence, perhaps, they may be exhumed in ages to come, and furnish reasons (strong as many used by our antiquaries of the present day in support of the ring-money theory) that the railway contractors of the nineteenth century paid their labourers in that currency.

"I conceive that the Derrynahinch hoard was not used as money, except so far as precious metals always served as such, whether wrought, or simply in ingots. Perhaps we have here the stock of a travelling worker in silver, or the hoard of a plundering Dane, in both cases hidden for security, and then forgotten in consequence of the death of the depositor. The silver fibula-head (the largest known), found near Urlingford, and deposited in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, in the year 1846, through the instrumentality of our Very Reverend President, had been mutilated by some sharp instrument, and probably only saved by an accident from the crucible of some ancient plunderer or jeweller. The ring now exhibited was picked up by an intelligent 'ganger,' named George Newton, an Englishman, who placed it on his finger, where it gradually assumed its pristine lustre. Newton, from whom the particulars just stated, together with the ring, were obtained, promised to look out for any specimens which might have remained in the hands of the 'navvies,' but I fear, from the length of time which has elapsed since I last saw him, that he has not been successful."

Mr. R. Hitchcock contributed papers on a Sculptured Stone in the old Church of Annagh, county of Kerry, and on the Round Towers of the county of Kerry, which will be found printed at length at pp. 239, and 242, *ante*.

Mr. Prim read a paper on Olden Popular Pastimes in Kilkenny, which is printed in full at p. 319, *ante*.

Mr. John O'Daly contributed a transcript of an ancient Irish account

of the Inauguration of Cathal Crobhdearg O'Connor, with a translation, and accompanied by notes from the pen of Dr. O'Donovan, which will be found printed at length, p. 335, *ante*.

## GENERAL MEETING,

Held at the Society's Apartments, Patrick-street, Kilkenny,

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18th, 1853,

THE REV. JOHN BROWNE, LL.D., in the Chair.

The following Members were elected:—The Right Hon. Lord Londesborough, President of the Numismatic Society of London, F.R.S., F.S.A., &c.: proposed by Mr. T. Crofton Croker.

Thomas Kerslake, Esq., Park-street, Bristol; Professor M'Sweeney, St. Patrick's College, Thurles; Robert Sullivan, Esq., LL.D., Education Office, Marlborough-street, Dublin; and John Ward Dowsley, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S.I., Clonmel: proposed by Mr. R. Hitchcock.

The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, Clyst St. George, Topsham, Devon: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

The Right Hon. John Wynne, Hazlewood, Sligo: proposed by the Rev. Luke Fowler.

Edward Ryan, Esq., Kilfera: proposed by the Rev. Dr. Browne.

Frederick Beverly Dixon, Esq., Castlewood, Durrow; and Richard Burnham, Esq., Architect, Kilkenny: proposed by Mr. James G. Robertson.

William Francis Finn, Esq., J.P., Tullaroan; and William Hackett, Esq., Midleton: proposed by Mr. Prim.

The Very Rev. David O'Brien, D.D., Chapel House, Clarendon-st., Dublin; and Josias Beatty, Esq., 31, Lower Abbey-street, Dublin: proposed by Mr. John O'Daly.

The following presentations were received, and thanks for them ordered to be given to the donors:—

By Mr. T. Crofton Croker, for Lord Londesborough, *Catalogue of a Collection of Ancient and Mediæval Rings and Personal Ornaments, formed for Lady Londesborough*; privately printed.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, its *Journal*, No. 37.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association, *Archæologia Cambrensis*, No. 14.

By the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, *Ancient Cambridgeshire*, being No. 3 of the 8vo. series of that Society's publications.

By Mr. John Gray Bell, *The Vale Royal of England*, and *The Pedigree of the family of Scott of Stokoe*.

By Mr. J. G. Robertson, a Survey for a canal and rail-road, from Gores-bridge to Castlecomer by Kilkenny, made by Mr. John Killally, A.D., 1812.

By Mr. George Bolger, two bronze celts.

By the Rev. W. Browne, Dungarvan, a thin bronze javelin head.

By James F. Ferguson, Esq., an ancient deed indented—"Made at Kilkenny y<sup>e</sup> xxiiii. day of July, the yere of our Lorde mccccxxxii, betwex Catheryn Archere burges of y<sup>e</sup> said town on y<sup>e</sup> one part, and Lawrans Dowly, Corwyzer, of y<sup>e</sup> other part," respecting premises without St. Patrick's gate. Its chief curiosity consisted in the circumstance of its proving that there were female burgesses of Kilkenny in those days.

By Rev. James Graves, a note of the bank of Williams and Finn, Kilkenny, amount 3s. 9½d.

By Rev. B. Scott, Rev. J. Graves, Mr. R. Preston, and Mr. J. Corbett, several ancient coins.

The Rev. James Graves read a description of a sepulchral tumulus in the Queen's County, as follows :—

"Some years since, the proprietor of the lands of Cuffsborough, in the parish of Aghaboe, and Queen's County, determined on removing a hillock or mound of earth then existing in one of his fields. After his labourers had cleared away a considerable portion of the earth, they came to a beehive-shaped structure of rough stones ; three or four of which being removed, gave entrance to a sepulchral chamber within, for such it proved to be. This chamber, which measured about five feet in diameter, had been formed by placing a circle of large stones on edge, at the back of which clay and small stones seemed to have been carefully rammed down ; these stones were about three and a-half feet in height from the floor of the chamber. On the upper edge of this circle, and with a slight projection over its inner face, was laid horizontally another circle of large flat stones ; above these another row with the same projection over the former, and so on until the dome was closed at the apex by a single large stone. The floor of this chamber, which was perfectly dry, was covered by about an inch of very fine dust, and in the centre, lying confusedly, were the bones of two human skeletons. The bones were quite perfect when the chamber was first opened, but, when exposed to the action of the atmosphere, in a short time they crumbled away. It would appear as if the bodies had been placed in a sitting posture, and that the bones in the process of decay had fallen one upon the other. One of the skulls was probably that of a female, being considerably smaller than the other. This sepulchral chamber had evidently been built over the bodies of the deceased persons, as there was no door or other aperture by which they could afterwards have been introduced. The bones showed no trace of cremation, and the impalpable dust covering the floor of the chamber proved that the corpses had been placed there entire, and had undergone the process of decay after sepulture. Subsequently to the completion of the rude stone-work above described, a mound of earth was heaped up over all ; thus forming a sepulchral tumulus.

"I am sorry to say that all trace of the interesting sepulchral chamber above described is now obliterated. Shortly after its discovery, some persons proceeded to excavate beneath the upright stones which formed the sides, in search of that universally desired, and therefore dreamed of object, a 'creek of gold.' This caused a subsidence, which at once reduced the whole structure to an undistinguishable mass of ruin, and the very stones are, I believe, now entirely removed."

Mr. W. Hackett of Midleton, contributed a paper on Folk-lore, which will be found printed in full at p. 303, *ante*.

Mr. T. L. Cooke sent a paper on the Ancient Cross of Banagher, King's County, which is printed in full at p. 277, *ante*.

The Rev. A. B. Rowan, D.D., Belmont, Tralee, communicated a paper on the well-known monument at the abbey of Holy Cross, as follows :—

"A few days since, looking over the volume of our 'Transactions' for 1849, I lighted upon the animated and interesting discussion of Messrs. Prim and Cooke, respecting the celebrated monument at Holy Cross ; following their references I turned to Dr. Petrie's article in the *Dublin Penny Journal* of 1832-3, to Sir William Betham's offered correction of Dr. Petrie, and to the learned Doctor's stout but respectful adherence to his opinion, in which men unconvinced are apt to persist. Having considered all these

documents and the difficulties pressing on each theory respectively, I venture to offer a different suggestion altogether, respecting this remarkable monument, which, being for its date and florid style of ornament rather a singular erection in Ireland, it seems equally singular, that if raised to the memory of an individual, any uncertainty should prevail as to who that individual was. I am emboldened to propose my theory by the hope expressed in Mr. Prim's last paper, that 'other members of the Society would take up the subject and give their views;' and further by a recollection of the old adage—that a by-stander may sometimes see what escapes more acute minds, when energetically engaged in a discussion.

"The question at issue I take to be two-fold. First, is the monument a set of sedilia, or a tomb? Next, if a tomb, whose tomb is it? On the first question, having paid some attention to the character of sedilia, and examined these constructions in a vast number of English churches, as well as in the ecclesiastical ruins of Ireland, I am obliged to offer my verdict for what it may be worth *against this being a set of sedilia*. The shape of the niches, the elevation from the ground, the narrowness of seat afforded, all seem to me opposed to such a supposition; I cannot recall to mind, having ever seen sedilia of this fashion, whilst I have seen many monumental erections, if not exactly the same, at least of similar construction. Of course I offer this judgment most submissively prepared to find it rejected by Mr. Prim, as he objects to Mr. Cooke's arguments, or as Dr. Petrie puts aside Sir William Betham's emendations of his theory; I must, however, in order to offer my own views, assume the first question to be settled in favour of the TOMB *versus* the SEDILIA theory. And now coming to the second question, if a tomb—for *whom* or to *what purpose* erected? Before I propose my own substantive view, I must endeavour to put aside several conflicting theories as to dates and individuals, which appear to me to settle down like a haze on the whole subject; each theory, as is not unusual, recommending itself to its maintainer by some element of probability or truth.

"First, it is not the tomb of the O'Brien, founder of Holy Cross. Any one having the least tincture of that knowledge of style of architecture which is daily spreading among us, must at once perceive that a monument, executed in the florid and somewhat overlaid Gothic style of the fourteenth or fifteenth century, could not be the tomb (at least the *original* tomb) of an individual who died in the end of the twelfth century.

"And yet, as Dr. Petrie acutely observes, the tomb standing in a '*place usually occupied by the tomb of a founder*,' would seem to indicate some connexion with such an individual; keeping in view this idea, and possessed by a theory (in which the learned Doctor found 'no difficulties whatever') that the tomb belonged to a countess of Desmond (*natae* Butler), he proceeds to infer a fact, which, as he naively confesses, is '*hitherto unknown in history*!' namely, that *his* 'countess of Desmond was the *rebuilder* of the noble abbey church of Holy Cross;' thus will a hobby theory *run away* with the steadiest rider, when he is once fairly astride!

"The heraldic difficulties, which beset every view hitherto put forward, seem to be most formidable; Mr. Prim declaring that while Sir William Betham's heraldic proofs, *fearfully damaged* Dr. Petrie's theory, further adds, that the Doctor, by the counter missile of an historic fact, '*completely demolished*' the antagonistic theory of Sir William. To turn to the other cases, and not to dwell upon the question between 'apples and ermine tails,' which I assume to be settled by the rubbing taken from the actual stone, I beg to observe that—though there may be cases, I am not aware of any, in which persons, females especially, *collaterally* descended from royalty, have borne the royal arms on a *separate* shield among their devices—and though I have seen many stately and elaborate tombs of noble houses in England having nearer and more direct claims to royal blood than the Butlers or Fitzgeralds of Ireland, yet I cannot recollect ever to have seen the royal arms so borne among monumental insignia; it may, however, be so in cases of which I am not aware.

Mr. Cooke, with that pains-taking and ingenious attention which he is wont to bestow on antiquarian matters, offers to prove that the monument was erected to the memory of a mysterious and somewhat legendary personage called 'The Good Woman's Son,' whom the general bearing of his arguments and the local traditions on which he relies would seem to identify with a certain 'Feorus Fionn' slain either in battle, or by an O'Fogarty chief, somewhere about the middle of the 13th century—this Feorus Fionn is further said to have been, *probably*, a son of Isabella, widow of John, King of England, by an after-taken husband, 'to have been sent to Ireland to collect Peter's pence,' and to

have been slain an '*innocens princeps*,' who '*could not have been more than seven years of age*!' I own that (independent of other objections forcibly urged by Mr. Prim in his rejoinder) though the ingenuity and research of Mr. Cooke are both largely exercised in support of his view, yet that to me they altogether fail in sustaining the 'violation of all the unities' which this tissue of conflicting tradition involves—another instance of hobby-riding. A man of Mr. Cooke's well known acuteness must have been much engrossed indeed with his theory when he overlooked the improbability that a *child of seven years old*, even though glowing with the precocious desire to examine Irish manners and mode of living—'*videndi Hibernicos mores et vivendi formam desiderio flagrabat*,' would have been the selected agent to collect Peter's pence from the fierce O'Fogartys and other chiefs, of Ireland in general, and of Tipperary in particular; what else could have been expected from such a selection than what happened, *if it did happen*, namely, a '*massacre of the innocent prince*.' But I am disposed to think that *if never did happen!* that father Hartry, in the seventeenth century, having tasked himself to 'chronicle' whatever might hereafter form the '*Triumphalia*' of the abbey of Holy Cross, wrote down with too easy a faith all the loose and conflicting traditions of the district; and that Mr. Cooke was too much engrossed with the theory founded on them to examine the *consistency of its details* with his usual acuteness. Mr. Cooke, however, is 'himself again,' when he points out the improbability of father Hartry's being ignorant of the monument being of a *sedile* character, if such was its use. Nor does he hesitate to charge the *Triumphalia* with 'falling into an anachronism' when it crosses the path of his own theory—which even when we dissent from, we must admire the research and ingenuity of its advocate.

"I now come to propose my own suggestion as to the origin and use of the monument in question, and submit that while so many difficulties lie against assigning it as the tomb of *any* of the individuals mentioned, and while no other with paramount claims appears, one use *may* be indicated for it, to which none of these difficulties apply, namely, that of *THE ALTAR-TOMB*, so common in all Roman Catholic churches where the provision for carrying out the ritual was at all complete, and the use of which is for receiving the Host for an assigned period during the ceremonies of Passion Week. The '*tomb of the founder*' is the position most commonly selected as '*the altar-tomb*,' and when in after ages this elaborate monument was added to Holy Cross church, it was by no means improbable that the site selected *was the founder's grave*, and thus the mistake of its being erected to his memory may be accounted for. I consider a circumstance which Mr. Cooke mentions, and on which Mr. Prim comments, as of more importance in determining the question at issue, than either gentleman seems aware, namely, that the '*table*,' that is, the part which Mr. Prim could make the *seat* of the sedilia, is a '*stone slab with a sepulchral cross*.' Mr. Prim acknowledges this to be the fact, that the table of the monument is a '*slab ornamented with a foliated cross, of a character proving it to be about two centuries older than the rest of the structure*!' Now I must consider his mode of disposing of this fact, as doing little less violence to probability, than he charges the parties erecting the monument with having done 'to the grave of its nameless owner,' when he gives his opinion that they '*dishonestly purloined it!*' For the honour of religion, and of '*devout builders unknown*,' I beg to suggest a more probable and more honest reason for the appearance of this stone in its present position; either it is the original grave-stone of the founder, introduced into the more modern erection, or else, I conceive it to be an ancient *altar-slab*,<sup>1</sup> and *most probably that of Holy Cross church itself*, originally the covering of the principal altar, until replaced by one more costly on the erection of the new and magnificent shrine contemporaneous with the monument under consideration, when the old altar slab might have been removed to its present less conspicuous, but still consecrated use and position. Adverting to the fact incidentally mentioned in Mr. Prim's rejoinder, '*that a cross-marked stone forms the threshold of a door in the Cathedral of St. Canice at Kilkenny*,' I beg leave to offer an observation which may be interesting, namely, that at the Reformation, in very many cases, the table-stone of the altar was placed in an *inverted position*, as the threshold of the church door; and since this fact has been brought into notice, many altar-stones have been discovered, and removed from that position. I may now briefly observe that in my view as to the Holy Cross monument be admissible, it removes all the heraldic

<sup>1</sup> Having since personally inspected the monument, I perceive that my suggestion is inadmissi-

ble; the slab is plainly sepulchral—ill fitted to, and older than, the monument itself.—A. B. R.

difficulties with which the question is environed. I assume the question of the bearings on one shield (that of Desmond) to be settled by the 'rubbing of the original stone,' already referred to. But on my view it is needless to debate whether any or what family had a right to a full shield of royal arms, or whether a more nobly-born wife did or did not violate the order of true blazoning by assuming the dexter side for her escutcheon. I briefly remark that nothing could be more proper or probable than that the armorial bearings of the benefactors of the abbey, regal or baronial, would be added to the ornaments of a monument destined to such a use. Nor is there anything improbable in the suggestion, that it might have been erected, *at the joint expense of the persons whose escutcheons are thus mingled with its ornaments*. Just as we now-a-days see the armorial bearings of the donors introduced into the pattern of a donative painted window.

"There are some other circumstances connected with the arrangement for this part of the Roman Catholic ritual, which I may as well mention here. In the greater churches abroad, there is usually a separate chapel, called 'The Chapel of the Holy Sacrament,' set apart for the same use as the 'altar-tomb' in less important churches. The Pauline Chapel is the altar-tomb of the Vatican. On Holy Thursday the Pope carries the Host, in solemn procession, from the Sixtine to the Pauline Chapel, deposits it there, and at a subsequent period of the holy week returns it in like solemn form to the Sixtine Chapel again. I could not learn that the Pauline Chapel was ever used for any other purpose than this.

"Another curious feature in this point of church arrangement may, *if found in Holy Cross*, determine the point at issue. In many ancient churches (though by no means in all) is found a small low window close to the ground, the use of which was for some time a subject of ecclesiological perplexity and debate. At length it was observed that this window, when it existed, uniformly commanded a view of 'the altar-tomb' in the opposite *interior* wall of the church; and it seems now agreed on, that this window was intended to serve the purpose of keeping vigil from without, while the Host lay on the altar-tomb in the deserted, as it were, *widowed*, church within. I remember how I surprised an English friend, who conceived that he knew his church in all its details 'from turret to foundation stone,' by first going to search for, and then pointing out to him such a window, closed up and half buried in the accumulated earth outside his church. Now I would suggest *if* Holy Cross church be examined with a view to this point, and if any such window be found in the position I mention, it would be a strong *deciding* fact, although its non-existence would not be of an equally strong negative character; for these windows are by no means an essential or universal accompaniment of the altar tomb.

"I reserve for the last a suggestion for reconciling Mr. Cooke's tradition with my theory, upon which I need hardly say I do not insist, when I mention that I expect it to bring upon me the observation that 'this gentleman can spur his own hobby as hotly as any one else.' Be it so—if I spur too eagerly and receive a fall in consequence, I hope I can take it with the good humour which ought to mark all friendly contests of this sort, in which the true solution of a difficulty being the prize contended for, we should all rejoice when it is attained, whether by ourselves or another. Now for my suggestion, which is this—that the very peculiar phrase of the '*tomb of the Son of the Good Woman*' may originally have been a homely and yet enigmatical periphrasis, to express the 'altar-tomb of the Son of the Blessed Virgin.' I am probably fanciful, but it has occurred to me that it may be one of those peculiar and forcible modes of expression in use among the Irish in their own language. It was but yesterday that a friend and I were discussing a curious synonyme, by which, without a thought of irreverence, our peasantry designate God himself as 'the Man above,' or 'the Man on high!' Why then may not the Son of the 'Good Woman' have been in more primitive times, and before war and convulsions broke up the conventional meaning, their periphrastic expression for our Saviour himself?

"If you think these speculations worth submitting to the Kilkenny Archæological Society at their next meeting, you will do me the favour to take the trouble of reading them as the contribution of a Member who hopes, some time or other, to take his seat at one of their reunions."

The Rev. James Mease, in reference to the ring-dial presented at the last meeting of the Society, read the following observations on ancient dials:—

"A few words on dials may not be uninteresting to the Members, as these mathematical instruments (as they may be fairly called) are not only objects which attract the attention of the antiquarian in themselves, but also from their connexion with other ancient monuments. The equal division of time must have been an important object from the earliest days of the human race; and yet many nations appear to have made considerable advancement in other respects, before this was attained with any degree of accuracy. We find that Homer seems to have had no idea of any instrument which could have been used for this purpose, although from his mention of the constellations, astronomy would appear to have attracted his attention. When he divides the day it is always by some general expression, such as—'as long as the day increased'—or—'what time the woodman prepares his meal,' that he indicates its progress. Indeed it was many ages after, that the dial was introduced into Greece. Some time before this the clepsydra, or water-clock, enabled them to measure time in the absence of the sun; to the latter instrument frequent allusion is made in classical authors, more particularly it is mentioned by Æschines, in his famous speech against Ctesiphon, or rather Demosthenes. Dials were, at even a later period, brought into use at Rome; the first mention of one is in the time of Papirius Cursor, about 460 years after the foundation of the city, and even this is doubtful. About thirty years later, in the first Punic war, one was brought from Sicily, but as it was made for a place four degrees of latitude to the south of Rome, it was, when set up at the latter place, totally useless; and yet dials existed in other countries at a much earlier period. Mention is made in the prophet Isaiah of the dial of Ahaz (38th c. 8th v.) This was probably introduced from Babylon, which city claims not only the credit of this useful invention, but of astronomical observations, which laid the foundation of that most sublime of sciences, and are of immense importance in the nicest calculations even to the present day.

"To carry on the history of dials through other nations would be here impossible, from the immense extent of the subject, and, therefore, I shall conclude this part with the mention of the use of the word by Shakspeare. I can call to mind that he makes use of the word three times; perhaps more frequently, but if so the passages have escaped my memory. One is in the celebrated speech of Henry VI., uttered in the midst of a battle where that peaceful monarch wishes that he could lay aside his crown and take up the humble life of a shepherd; one of the occupations of this life, he says, would be—

'To carve out dials quaintly, point by point.'

Here the common horizontal slate dial is obviously meant. In another play, the name of which I forget, one of his characters says—'Nay, then, my dial goes not with yours.' Here, I think it is plain, that dial signifies a watch; and it is probable that the name of the old instrument was applied to the new. The third place is in 'As You Like It;' the fool is there said to draw 'a dial from his poke and gaze upon it with lack-lustre eye.' I think in this latter place also, it signifies a watch, for though it might apply to a ring-dial, such as that now exhibited, yet the use of that would require some degree of skill in the setting of it, which would not only be more than one could expect from the unsettled mind of a fool, but even if we suppose him more knave than fool, yet I think some notice of the operation would be taken by the observant Jacques. It may seem to contradict this, that the person spoken of was a fool, but we must remember he was a court fool. The word 'poke' was probably a more respectable word then, than it is in these days.

"It would occupy too much of our time to enter upon the general subject of dialling; but a few remarks on its principles will not be out of place. Let us conceive a hollow globe, formed of twenty-four meridians, representing the earth. The sun will be obviously in the plane of one of these meridians in each successive hour. That meridian would then cast a shadow in that plain. Now the shadows of these meridians would all intersect in one line. This line is the axis of the earth. That axis would, therefore, always be in the shadow of these meridians, and, therefore, if the meridians were all taken away and the axis made into an opaque rod, the shadow of that rod would serve instead of the shadows of the successive meridians. If then you catch that shadow on any plane it will mark the passing of time. The two things necessary then to the construction of a dial are, first, a line parallel to the axis of the earth, and secondly, a fixed plain catching the shadow of that axis, and having lines drawn to mark the shadow. Speaking in the abstract, the plane may be fixed in any position with regard to the axis, but practically a

few only of these positions are ever made use of. The horizontal, the perpendicular, facing either north and south, or east and west, and the equatorial, which serves for all latitudes. The one now exhibited to the Society is of the latter class. It was presented by James K. Aylward, Esq., having been found in a sand-pit, at Shankill, a short time since. Having shown it to Mr. McCarthy, the mathematical master at Kilkenny College, he has favoured me with the following observations:—

“The mathematical instrument which you placed in my hands some time since, is part of an universal equinoctial dial. It wants the axis and slider. As the method of construction and the manner of using it are to be met with in most books on dialling, I think it unnecessary to enter more largely into the subject. However, it may be proper to remark that the instrument is graduated somewhat differently from those of a more recent construction. It has the hours only sub-divided into quarters on the inner edge of the inner ring; those that were in use about the commencement of the last century have the hours each sub-divided into five minutes on the outer edge of the inner ring; therefore, it is probable, that this dial was made in the early part of the seventeenth century. The names of some of the cities which are given on it seem to lead to the same conclusion.”

“I shall add to the above that this dial was obviously made by a French artist residing in Ireland. First, the names are all French; for instance London is Londres, Vienna, Vienne, &c. Secondly, the number of French towns carved on it is much greater than that of any other country. Next in number are the Irish towns. There are only two English—London and York; and all other countries have only the chief city mentioned. I have, perhaps, dwelt upon this subject longer than its importance seemed to require. However, independently of this dial as an object of interest to the antiquarian, it is well known that these instruments are attached to buildings, and buildings themselves are conjectured (as I think with a strong degree of probability) to have served as dials, and to have been constructed with that object. Some knowledge of the principles of dialling will assist in investigating the subject, and will, perhaps, enable us to decide whether or not the standing stones, usually supposed to be Druidical erections, portions of round towers (for the towers themselves could not serve for that purpose), and of other buildings, might not have been intended for that among other uses.”

Sir Erasmus Dixon Borrowes, Bart., communicated the following interesting extract from the Irish Exchequer Records, in reference to a member of the family of Dixon, concerning whom another extract from the same records had been previously brought under the notice of the public, in the *Kilkenny Moderator*, by J. F. Ferguson, Esq.:—

“30th September, 1633. Memorandum—That this day the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen of the cittie of Dublin, came in their scarlett gownes before The Right Honorable Thomas Viscount Wentworth, Lord Deputy Generall of this Kingdome, in his Magisties Castle of Dublin, where his Lordship being sett in his chaire of state in the presence chamber, the Mayor delivered unto him the whyte staffe and sword of the cittie, and then after Mr. Sergeant Catelyn, the Recorder, had made an eloquent oration, hee presented Robert Dixon, Esq., to be Mayor of this cittie for this ensuing yeare, who having first taken the oath of the King's supremacie, and the oath of his office of Mayor, redd unto him by Robert Kennedy, Esq., the King's Remembrancer, the Lord Deputie delivered unto him the staffe of authoritie, and sword of government of this cittie, which being donne, Sir Richard Bolton, Knight, Lord Chiefe Baron, very learnedlie and gravely declared unto the said new Mayor the points of his charge and dutie of his place, with admonition to discharge them accordingly, who havinge ended, the Lord Deputie with greate gravitie and wisdom did further advertise and admonish the said Mayor to the faithfull and due execution and administration of justice in the saide office, to the advancement of his Majisties service, and the honor and good of the cittie, and, after much graciousness, intimatinge howe reddey hee would bee to assiste and countenance the said cittie in all their just and lawfull occasions: and soe his Lordship rysinge upp retyreth himselfe into the withdrawing chamber, and the said Mayor and Citizens departed the Castle to performe the other ceremonies of the cittie as on that daie accustomed.”

On the termination of his year of office, Robert Dixon was knighted, on the 22nd September, 1634, at his own house, in Skinner-row, then having a garden attached; which house was in being in queen Elizabeth's time, and stood on the spot now occupied by No. 14, &c., in Christ Church-place, Dublin.

Mr. D. Byrne, Timahoe, communicated the following tradition of that district:—

“On the mountain near Dysartgallen, called Knock-ard-na-gur, in the Queen’s County, was a castle of considerable strength. Tradition asserts that ‘a tyrant’ was the proprietor, and that his usual mode of carrying on his nefarious system of robbery and murder was by meeting travellers on their way from and to Ballinakill and Stradbally, where a small stone trough now rests on the road side. These, under pretence of friendship, he invited, from time to time, to take at his castle some refreshment, where in secret he robbed and murdered them. Notwithstanding this, it was almost impossible to take the robber, even by surprise. At that time the chieftain, Rory O’More, lived in Cluan-Kyle, and when the robber had baffled all his vigilance, one of O’More’s faithful retainers went to the former and asserted that he wished to enter into his employment, at the same time assailing the character of O’More and his partisans.

“Gearoid Jarla, or Garret the Earl, the name of the outlaw, was an enemy to the O’Mores; and, consequently, he received with alacrity this pretended friend, who promised if possible to place O’More in his hands. For some time he evinced a determined dislike to O’More, and appeared assiduous in seeking to compass his ruin. In one of his lurking places he met O’More, told him it was impossible to take the outlaw by surprise, and that an attack on the castle would cost too much blood; there was but one way, he said, of getting rid of the villain, and that was to come that night, singly and as close as possible to the castle, and when Gearoid sat at table, he (the servant) would place the lamp directly between the former and the window; O’More should fire at the lamp, and he would certainly bring down his man, and then could make his escape through the woods.

“O’More observed the advice of his faithful dependant, and effected his purpose. On the next day the peasantry carried the body of Gearoid Jarla to the ford of Dysartgallen, and quartered it there, casting the remains into the river, which bore them into the ocean, except the entrails, which were found below Ballinakill; and a mill having been since erected at the spot it is called to this day ‘Pudding Mill.’

“The ruins of Gearoid’s castle are not without their strange traditions regarding much treasure having been hidden in and about the site. Some time prior to its fall, a man and his wife set out from the county of Wicklow, and sought a night’s shelter from Leem Oge Campion, or young Leem Campion, who resided near the latter; the unwise travellers told him that they frequently dreamed that a vessel containing gold coin was embedded in one of the walls of the castle, and that if they set forward the castle would fall to the ground on the night of their arrival near its ruins, and they would possess the treasure. Campion, next morning, at day’s dawn, went to the castle—it was down, and in complete ruins; he found the vessel and the treasure; the dreamers returned as they came, their weakness of mind having destroyed their prospects, and Campion became a wealthy farmer!

“After the death of Gearoid Jarla, a female relative of his lived in the castle; her name was Mary Brennan, commonly called ‘Moll of the hills;’ she was a reputed enchantress, and married to a gentleman named Fitzpatrick. No part of the castle now remains, but its site is well known.”

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## GENERAL MEETING,

Held at the Society’s Apartments, Patrick-street, Kilkenny,

WEDNESDAY, July 19th, 1853.

ROBERT CANE, Esq., M.D., in the Chair.

The following Members were elected:—Sir Erasmus Dixon Borrowes, Bart., Lauragh, Portarlinton: proposed by Mr. Prim.

Andrew Ryan, Esq., Gortkelly Castle, Borrisoleigh; Sylvester Redmond, Esq., 19, Penrhyn-street, Scotland-road, Liverpool; George A. Hanlon, Esq., Bedford House, Rathgar, Dublin; John Russell Smyth, Esq., 36, Soho-square, London; Rev. Thomas Richard Brown, M.A.,

Southwick Vicarage, near Oundle, Northamptonshire ; Thomas Tobin, Esq., J.P., F.S.A., Ballincollig ; William Barton, Esq., Dungannon ; Rev. Charles W. Russell, D.D., Dundalk ; and John McClelland, Esq., Dungannon : proposed by Mr. Richard Hitchcock.

William Deane Butler, Esq., Architect, Stephen's-green, Dublin : proposed by Mr. Joseph Burke.

Richard Graham, Esq. ; Samuel White, Esq. ; and Joseph White, Esq., all of Clonmel : proposed by Dr. Dowsley.

Charles Haliday, Esq., Monkstown Park, county of Dublin : proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

John William Smithwick, Esq., Kilcreene ; and John J. Sullivan, Esq., Kilkenny : proposed by Mr. Edward Lane.

William Jones, Esq., Architect, Coal-market : proposed by Mr. J. G. Robertson.

Stephen Ram, Esq., Ramsfort, Gorey : proposed by Mr. John O'Daly.

The following presentations were received, and thanks for them ordered to be given to the donors :—

By the Rev. J. L. Irwin, several curious maps and plates ; amongst the latter was an engraving, representing the coronation procession of Edward VI., and amongst the former a bird's-eye view of London in 1737, together with a recently published panorama of the same city, illustrating the vast extension of the modern Babylon within the last century.

By Mr. R. Preston, jun., an old tobacco-pipe, with very small bowl and thick shank, found at the summit of the belfry tower of the Black Abbey, to which there had been no access for a couple of centuries, till scaffolding was put up a few days since for the erection of a new bell.

By Mr. Betsworth Lawless, an ancient bronze pin.

By Joseph Rivers, Esq., Rev. James Graves, and Mr. Corbett, several ancient coins.

By John Lindsay, Esq., the author, *A View of the History and Coinage of the Parthians*.

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq., the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

By the Bury and West Suffolk Archæological Institute, its *Proceedings*.

Mr. Robertson presented a rubbing from a sculpture preserved at Rose Hill. It represented the crest of the Walsh family, and had been removed from an old house which formerly stood on the lands of Warrington, near this city. The crest was blazoned as follows :—a swan rising proper, ducally gorged, pierced through the breast by an arrow, the point downwards.

The Rev. Thomas H. Watson, Rathdowney, forwarded for exhibition, and for deposit for the present in the Museum of the Society, an ancient iron knife, inlaid with brass and soldered with tin, which he stated to have been found in the summer of 1851, by a stone-cutter, whilst quarrying, about four or five feet under ground, at Ballytimmon, near Fenagh, County of Carlow. There was some kind of handle, probably of wood, attached when the article was discovered, but this the finder broke away, and stated to have been quite rotten. The Rev. Mr. Graves

pointed to the ornamental inlaying on the blade as strongly resembling in its pattern some of the sculptures on the ancient Irish crosses. Tin solder was most unusual in ancient remains of the kind.

The Rev. Thomas R. Brown, forwarded the following interpretation of one of the ancient porcelain Chinese seals found in Ireland, noticed in Getty's work on Chinese Seals, Dublin, 1850:—

“As a newly-proposed member of your Society, allow me to introduce myself by the interpretation of a seal which has been translated by Mr. Gutzlaff, ‘a dark cloud,’ and which Mr. Meadows has said ‘can only be partially deciphered, and hence cannot be translated.’ See Getty, pp. 27, 30. The seal is numbered 61. I have before me ‘Fargher's Mona Almanac’ for 1853, in which the Kirk Michael Runic monument has been differently translated by Sir John Prestwich, Bart., Mr. Beauford of Ireland, Dr. Charles Oberleitner of Vienna, Rev. T. R. Brown, vicar of Southwick, and J. J. A. Worsaae, Esq. of Copenhagen, with Professor P. A. Munch; the two last agree in their translation. Here are *five* who slightly or otherwise disagree; I hope, therefore, you will not think me presumptuous overmuch, if I make a third in the above-mentioned seal. I shall quote the numbers of the words as they are in Guignes’ ‘Dictionnaire Chinois’ for the benefit of any person not acquainted with that language.

Figure of the seal in *modern* characters. 1st. At the top, on the right hand, *tchu*, 31, with *tou*, 1549, a point (piece) of land. 2nd. Beneath the first, *tche*, 2272, with *teou*, 77, (with) grass herbs, &c., on it. 3rd. At the top, on the left hand, *kan*, 6145, (makes) a sweet-smelling. 4th. Beneath, *tien*, 6170, field. That such combinations as 31 + 1549, and 2272 + 77 are frequent, and make, in appearance, only one word, see Chinese Courtship (with not a very literal translation), by P. P. Thoms. Therefore the literal translation of the seal is this: ‘A spot of land covered with herbs makes a sweet-scented field.’ And I think the motto may, not improperly, be applied to the Members of such a Society as yours. ‘A person with a well-cultivated mind is as a sweet-smelling flower-garden.’”

Mr. John Dunne, Garryricken, communicated the discovery made by him of a hitherto unnoticed ancient Irish inscription at Killamory, county of Kilkenny, where another Irish inscription, recently figured by Mr. O'Neill, in his lithograph of the cross of Killamory, is long known to have existed. The stone, which is rough grit and seems to have been broken, is two feet and a-half long, and thirteen inches wide. It bears inscribed on its surface a small plain cross and the letters, in very ancient Irish characters, *OK AK CHUATHAL*, which Mr. Dunn reads—“a prayer for Toole.” A rubbing accompanied the communication.

Mr. Graves said Dr. Petrie had informed him, that he had, many years ago, seen and copied three ancient Irish inscriptions in Killamory church-yard, and it would be well to ascertain from the learned gentleman whether that recently exhumed by Mr. Dunne was one of them.

Mr. Prim read a letter from W. D'Alton, Esq., Claremont, Nenagh, forwarding an account of the discovery of a large oaken beam, in the fosse of the rath of Curraghleigh, parish of Dolla, and barony of Upper Ormonde, county of Tipperary; accurate drawings and plans accompanied the communication. It appeared that the rath consisted of a square citadel, surrounded by a fosse, within a circular entrenchment, also defended by a corresponding fosse. The beam, which was eighteen feet long, and squared one foot eight inches by one foot five inches, was found two feet beneath the soil, in a bed of tough bluish clay, in the middle of the inner fosse, lying in a horizontal position, and containing four mortices, well cut with a chisel apparently, and bored at each corner with an auger. Mr. D'Alton stated that from the appearance of the mould

over the beam he thought the fosse must have been, at some distant period, filled with water, and that the beam was a portion of the support of a draw-bridge. It was a matter of surprise how such a heavy balk could be brought to where it lay, in consequence of the marshy nature of the surrounding lands, which must have been nearly impassable in ancient times. It was evident from the name "Curraghleigh," which signified the rough, or bleak, or more literally grey marsh, that this, like most places in Ireland, preserving their original appellations, had its designation from the peculiar features of the locality. Square raths were very prevalent in the district, and there were two others of that shape situate within a few hundred yards of Curraghleigh. The beam was found by people employed in sinking drains, but such was their superstitious feeling with respect to raths that no person could be induced to help to remove the balk till he gave the "first lift" himself. He forwarded a coin, found in the excavation, for presentation to the Society's Museum, which he hoped might throw light on the subject of the discovery.

Mr. Prim stated that the coin was a groat of queen Mary, and tended to throw no light on the subject, as it was evidently merely lost at the spot long subsequently to the depositing of the beam there.

Mr. Prim presented the fragments of a baked clay urn discovered a few months since in what had evidently been an extensive Pagan cemetery, situated in the county of Kilkenny. The fragments, with which he had been intrusted for presentation to the Museum, by Mr. John Moore, of Columbkille, near Thomastown, had formed a portion of a very fine urn, which had been ornamented, apparently, by the pressing of a cord plaited into a regular pattern into the soft clay before it was baked. Mr. Moore stated that the discovery was made on the 16th March last, on the lands of Columbkille, the property of William Flood, Esq., where there are on the townland, comprising 500 acres, no fewer than 57 cairns and tumuli. The finder was a labourer named Thomas Conway, who was digging a potato trench in the highest part of a high field, sloping to the west, and came upon clay mixed with ashes. At a depth of two feet he lighted on a small thin flag, which being lifted, was found to be the covering of a clay urn, large enough to hold more than a stone of potatoes. It was filled with ashes and small fragments of burned bones, and had not been inclosed within any kind of cist or chamber. The finder was overjoyed at the discovery, supposing it to be a "crock of gold," and without making the circumstance known to any one, he watched over the urn for the night, sacrificing a black cat, according to the ritual recommended by the most esteemed "fairly doctors," to propitiate the spirit supposed to guard the treasure. All, however, was unavailing for restoring the dust to gold, and when the cock crew without the expected transmutation having taken place, Conway, in the depth of his disappointment, broke the urn to fragments and scattered the bones and ashes about! The only portions of bones that Mr. Moore could recognise, when he went to inspect the spot next day, were fragments of the skull not larger than a shilling. Within the last twenty years there have been three small cists discovered at different places in the townland; they were composed of flag-stones

standing on edge, two feet wide, and nearly the same in height; but neither bones nor urns were found in them, they apparently having been previously ransacked. There were formerly two circular intrenchments, resembling raths, in the townland, of which one was levelled sixty years since, and a fine urn was found in it, which was also broken by the diggers: the other was levelled sixteen years since, but all that the labourers discovered in it was a quantity of "clinkers," as if it had been used as a tinker's forge. Some of the cairns, tumuli, and sites of pillar stones in the locality, would be well worthy of exploration.

Mr. J. G. Robertson exhibited a large number of beautifully-executed pen-and-ink drawings of cromleacs, principally from the northern counties of Ireland. These drawings had been executed by Mr. Johns, of Carrickfergus, an enthusiastic collector of that class of antiquities. Mr. Johns had communicated a copy of a letter received from another labourer in the same field, lieutenant-colonel C. Hamilton Smith, which he begged to lay before the meeting:—

"You are no doubt fully aware that the old antiquarian confused view of those objects is no longer admissible. They are scattered over a vast surface of the world in geographical directions, pointing to the forward movement of certain tribes, all apparently having a common Gomerian origin; their highest and most original point of departure is seemingly about the fords of the upper Indus, near Attock; they extend down its western bank to the mouth of the river, and then along the west coast of India to Ceylon, eastward to Mahabalipuram, or further, for they occur again at Macao in China, and at Loochoo! From the Indus westward, they pass down the Helmund to the lake, and then to Southern Persia, ascend the Tigris and Euphrates, where they meet again another line along the Parapanusan chain through Masinderan to Armenia; from thence, both united, cross the mountains to the Euxine Sea. They occur in ancient Colchis, then along the coast and through the country to the Mediterranean, following both borders of that sea to the straits; but a line of them from the Venetian territory passes through Trient, Buxen, the Tyrol, round the Alps, and meets the other along the sea on the ridge of the Vogesian mountains, one going down the Loire, another down the Rhine, where, however, they are now all destroyed; both met the continuation of the line along the ocean through Galicia and France, to opposite the coast of Kent; there one crosses into Great Britain and Ireland, and the other passing northward ends in Lapland. Some stragglers of these Cyclopiæ Celtæ wandered to the east coast of North America, where their monuments occur in Nova Scotia, and on the mainland of the United States. There is an obscure line apparently up the Danube, and one coming out of Poland to Dantzic, and thence coasting the Baltic, till it meets the other in Denmark. Thus I have shown sufficient to prove the necessity of a much deeper and more extensive research respecting the origin and movements of the Celtic race, if we mean at any time to come at an approximate idea of its primæval seat and development; and that it is also necessary to examine minutely the most ancient nomenclature of all the geographical denominations of objects along the lines in question; not exactly in the usual unhesitating way Celtic scholars have adopted, but with at least some knowledge of other tongues, and in particular of the Sanscrit family of languages, east and west. I have myself never completed this necessary investigation, but so far as I have carried it, and that extends over the far greater part, the result substantiated the conclusion which the monuments themselves offered."

John P. Prendergast, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, read a paper on the Ulster Craghts, which that gentleman has not been able to prepare for press in time for this volume of the Transactions.

A paper was contributed by Mark S. O'Shaughnessy, Esq., on Certain Obsolete Modes of inflicting Punishment, with Some Account of the

Ancient Court to which they belonged, which will be found printed in full in the Transactions, p. 254, *ante*.

The Rev. James Graves read a paper on the Ancient Pagan Cemetery at Ballon Hill, county of Carlow, which will be found printed at length in the Transactions, p. 295, *ante*.

In reference to a discussion which has been for some time before the Society, T. L. Cooke, Esq., Parsonstown, forwarded the following paper on the monument at Holy Cross, in reply to Dr. Rowan's observations read at the last meeting :—

"In reverting to that elegant remain of other days, the monument which adorns the choir of Holy Cross Abbey, I do acknowledge that I owe many obligations to the Rev. Dr. Rowan, of Belmont, Tralee, for his having, in a communication read at the last meeting of this Society, revived my attention to the subject. That learned divine, however, has incorrectly supposed me to have adopted a theory that Feorus Fionn, mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters, was certainly the personage interred, under the mysterious designation of the 'Good Woman's Son,' in the superb monument at Holy Cross. It would not, perhaps, be fair to hold the Rev. writer accountable for the opinion he has formed of my ideas in respect of the occupant of the monument in question, farther than as such opinion might have been deduced from what is reputed to be my essay, as same has appeared in print on the face of this Society's Transactions for the year 1849. I do not hold myself responsible for the printed garb in which my paper has been introduced to the learned world. I had no sort of control in editing it, nor was a proof of it submitted to me for revision or correction. I hope that Mr. Prim, who has favoured us with two essays on this same monument, has not the same cause for complaint in this regard that I conceive I have. I own that I felt annoyed when I first saw the number of this Society's Transactions for 1849. Yet, after consideration, I must in justice admit that the Society was at that time in its infancy, and the probable existence of want of experience attendant on a new undertaking now suffices to excuse with me the awkward form in which, by the mutilation of my MS., I have been made to appear.<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Dr. Rowan has struck upon one of the false positions in which I have been thus placed in print, by my being erroneously represented as asserting that Feorus Fionn, a child of only seven years of age, was sent forth to collect Peter-pence, then a most unpopular impost with both clergy and laity in Ireland, and to engage in 'the combats of men.'

"With great respect I would suggest to Dr. Rowan that he, even in the indulgence of good humoured criticism, was not justified in fancying I had got astride on the Feorus Fionn hobby, and that it had run away with its deluded rider, bearing him into the palpable absurdity which I have mentioned. I doubt not but that Dr. Rowan himself will, on consideration, allow that his conclusion has in this respect not been warranted, even by the printed report of my paper as given in the Transactions; for he will there find, at page 67, my own account of the object I had in view. He will perceive in the paragraph which heads the page now referred to, the words—'My principal object in laying this paper before the Kilkenny Archæological Society, is to prove that the Holy Cross monument is the tomb of The Good Woman's Son, rather than that of any other person, and to show that it was really a tomb, and not a sedile. I therefore offer the observations which follow, *more with a view to assist others in their future researches to discover who was the personage known under the mysterious title of The Good Woman's Son, than in the hope of presently establishing his identity myself in a satisfactory manner.*' Had the Rev. Dr. Rowan attentively read the two sentences I have now copied, he would not have attributed to me the egregious folly of believing that Feorus Fionn, supposing him to be then a child of only seven years of age, should be accepted by antiquaries as a fitting missionary to discharge the onerous duty of collector-general of Peter-pence.

"It gives me pleasure here to observe that Dr. Rowan thoroughly agrees with me in

<sup>1</sup> The Editors were compelled, by the want of funds, felt at that early stage of the Society's existence, to curtail portions of Mr. Cooke's very interesting, but lengthened paper; they are per-

suaded, nevertheless, that nothing essential to the argument has been omitted. They must, however, charge themselves with overlooking the misprint of seven for seventeen.—EDS.

adopting the *tomb theory* for the monument in question, although our conclusions in that respect are arrived at by different means. I endeavoured to prove from tradition, history, and external circumstances that it was a tomb; but Dr. Rowan's great experience in such matters enabled him at once to pronounce it, *ex-cathedra*, a tomb, and then to raise his own superstructure upon the foundation so rapidly and satisfactorily laid.

"Dr. Rowan has taken me to have written, "The Triumphalia" describes the Good Woman's Son as *princeps innocens*, and Feorus Fionn at the time of his death, in 1233, could not have been more than *seven* years of age, as queen Isabella could not have been married to king John in 1216.' Had the worthy and pious divine, previously to his sending, for the edification as well as amusement of the members of our Kilkenny Society, a paper replete with pungent facetiousness, referred either to me or to my MS. in the custody of the Secretary, it would have saved him and me much trouble, for he would have thereby discovered that my words had been misprinted. A copy of what I wrote here follows, and therein the words omitted in printing the Transactions will be found in Italics. "The Triumphalia" describes the Good Woman's Son as "princeps innocens," and Feorus Fionn, at the time of his death in 1233, could not have been more than *seventeen* years of age, as queen Isabella could not have been married to *Hugh le Brun until after the death of king John in 1216.*' At page 67 of the printed Transactions, Dr. Rowan might also have found that I quoted the learned authority of Professor Connellan and Dr. O'Donovan to show that Feorus Fionn was son to queen Isabella by Hugh le Brun, and in page 68 I gave my own reasons for concluding that he must have been son of that queen.

"A reference to my original MS. would further have proved that I had not formed any theory whatever as to the identifying of the Good Woman's Son with Feorus Fionn or with any other person, for I therein merely offered suggestions to enable others to inquire who the Good Woman's Son really was. So far from my having conclusively formed, or having been wedded to, any opinion of my own in regard to that personage, I expressed myself (*Trans.* p. 73), thus: '*I, for the present, leave it to others to decide whether Feorus Fionn and the Good Woman's Son were or were not the same person.*' In an *unprinted portion* of my paper, I also threw out some hints to enable future inquirers to trace whether the arms on the monument might not prove its occupant to have been some relative of the great earl of Pembroke. This surely did not indicate that I had made the identity of Feorus Fionn with the Good Woman's Son my hobby.

"There seems to me to be something worth consideration in the Rev. Dr. Rowan's interpretation of the phrase 'the Good Woman's Son.' Still it is difficult to believe that expression to mean 'The Son of the Blessed Virgin,' i.e. 'our Saviour himself.' Such would be too homely a mode of expression by which to designate the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity; and I do not think the synonyme by which, Dr. Rowan remarks the peasantry occasionally designate God, namely, '*The Man Above*,' furnishes any argument in favour of such a construction. In the last mentioned phrase, instead of the word *Man* meaning, as in the English language, a *human being*, and being used in that sense, it appears to me that it is there an Irish word, signifying God; and that the expression, 'The Man Above,' is a barbarous and imperfect translation of *An man os-g-ceann*, which literally signifies 'The God Above,' or 'overhead.' The expression, 'Good Woman's Son,' might have arisen from an over literal translation of the Irish, signifying the same, by using the word *son* instead of the word *priest* or *person under protection* of the good woman, who in that case would be the Blessed Virgin, to whom Holy Cross Abbey was dedicated. The word *mac*, literally *son*, is occasionally used in this sense; as for example, *Mac Faosma* means a person under the protection of a prince, and *Mac-Greine* means *priest of the sun*.—It is in the same style the Four Masters have called the Culdees by the name *Meic-Beathaidh*, i.e. literally, 'sons of life.' If the personage interred in the Holy Cross monument was the cause of having rendered to that abbey the great benefits of which popular tradition and the Triumphalia speak, he might well have been received under the protection of our Blessed Lady as patroness of the establishment; and, in that case, the word *mac* might with propriety be used in designating him. I, however, merely suggest this for the more mature reflection of those disposed to consider the point.

"It will be in the minds of the members of this learned Society that the observations of mine, which were submitted to the meeting, held the 5th of September, 1849, and which drew down on me, the same day, the censures of Mr. Prim, were called forth by an original paper from that gentleman on the subject of this same Holy Cross monu-

ment which had been read at a previous meeting. Mr. Prim adopted the theory that the monument in question was a sedilia erected for the use of the clergy during the ceremony of the mass. That talented and worthy gentleman disposed of the opinions of Dr. Petrie and Sir William Betham, who differed from his views, by very adroitly setting them, the one against the other; and he accused the learned Doctor of having *fallen into the common error, and set down the sedilia as a sepulchral monument*. At this stage of the discussion I, unfortunately for my own quiet, forwarded my paper to Kilkenny about a week before the meeting was held, at which it afterwards was read. In that document I sought to prove that the monument was a sepulchre, and in my effort to do so, I relied on the tradition which existed in the locality of the tomb, and also on the authority of a vellum MS. written by father Malachy Hartry (a friar of Holy Cross), between the years 1640 and 1649, both of which designated the monument in question as the tomb of the Good Woman's Son. Mr. Prim caused to be read *at the same meeting* a reply to my paper, and, in his zeal to annihilate the *tomb theory*, his pen fell mercilessly not on me alone, but on the builders of the monument, who appeared, to his vision as a set of ghouls, desecrating and plundering the abodes of the dead. Poor father Hartry, to whom was imputed falsification of facts and dishonest invention of falsehoods in the cause of his monastery, also came in for posthumous punishment. I relied on the probability that a sepulchral slab with a foliated cross, forming the table of the monument, and which slab Mr. Prim allows to be two centuries older than the rest of the structure, had been translated from its place over the Good Woman's Son in the old abbey to its present position in the new one.

"Mr. Prim readily evaded any force my opinion might chance to acquire therefrom by at once boldly writing, '*my opinion is, that this stone was dishonestly purloined from the nameless grave of its original owner, by the parties erecting the sedilia, to whom it saved the trouble of preparing a stone for the purpose.*' The Rev. Dr. Rowan, in that spirit of charity which so becomingly belongs to his sacred calling, has, greatly to his credit, found fault with so serious an accusation of long deceased persons—persons no longer able to defend themselves from the charge of robbery and sacrilege, and that, too, the robbery of the dead—an offence known, owing to its unusual baseness, only by the name '*furtum inauditum*.' That reverend antiquary says, 'now I must consider his (Mr. Prim's) mode of disposing of this fact as doing little less violence to probability, than he charges the parties erecting the monument with having done "to the grave of its nameless owner," when he gives his opinion that they "dishonestly purloined it." I here gladly refer to these sentiments of the Rev. Dr. Rowan, because they show, much better than I am capable of doing, the fallacy of an argument based on the supposed guilt of those who erected the monument in question more than four hundred years ago.'

"Mr. Prim writes of father Hartry's account of the Good Woman's Son and his monument, the monk *confessedly* derived his information from an imperfect Irish MS. which asserted that there had been a monument there called the tomb of the Good Woman's Son, but *of course* did not state which of the monuments in the church that tomb was. I do not understand why Mr. Prim should thus assume that Hartry confessedly derived his information from the MS. alone. That able antiquary seems to have overlooked that part of the extract which I gave from the Triumphalia in my former paper, wherein Hartry himself tells us he had the account, '*quam de patrum communium traditione non spernanda*, tam ex veteri MS. Hibernice conscripto.' Neither can I see why Mr. Prim has assumed that the Irish MS. *of course* did not state which of the monuments in the church that tomb was. It seems to me to be much more probable that it did point it out, for Hartry has particularised it as I have mentioned in my former paper (see *Trans.* p. 64, n.), and as I hope presently to place beyond the possibility of a doubt. Mr. Prim proceeds:—'Mr. Cooke has some hesitation in saying that father Hartry actually points out the architectural remains under discussion, as the tomb of the Good Woman's Son; but, even if such is actually asserted in the Triumphalia to be the fact, I would still say there was ground for doubting whether the good monk, after perusing the MS., had not looked about him for the monument most likely to be set up by a rich benefactor of the abbey, and fixed upon that which appeared to him the most ornate and imposing in its style of architecture.' It was scarcely just of Mr. Prim to attribute to me a hesitation in asserting that Hartry had particularised the tomb.

<sup>1</sup> Ancient tomb-stones are to be found in all the churches and abbeys of Kilkenny converted into the bases of fonts, the lintels of windows, the

architraves of doorways, and such like uses; the transmutations having taken place in the middle ages.—EDS.

"When originally writing, I expressed myself in the text: 'if my memory is not fallacious, father Hartry's book even gives a picture of the monument as that *Filii Bonæ Mulieris*.' Surely that was an assertion in the affirmative that my recollection then was that Hartry had specified it; but all room for cavil was removed by a note appended by me in the words 'since I wrote the above I find there is, *beyond doubt*, a painting representing this monument given in the Triumphalia. It serves to identify the structure now the subject of antiquarian speculation, as being the same designated by father Hartry the tomb of the Good Woman's Son.' It was not a fair mode of reasoning for Mr. Prim to represent me as having had a doubt on this subject, and then to deduce from such imputed doubt inferences hostile to the tomb theory. But Mr. Prim has supposed that Hartry had, without any authority, other than his own caprice or fancy, imposed on his readers by fixing on the structure in question as the tomb; and in a subsequent passage he writes, 'In fact I think it *may very reasonably be supposed* that, from father Hartry himself, in stating to *visitors* the conjecture which the MS. gave rise to with him, the present tradition of the locality respecting the Good Woman's Son originated.' I regret that I cannot acquiesce in thinking it *very reasonable to suppose* that a clergyman, now over two hundred years in his grave, should have invented and circulated a report unfounded in fact. In this instance, Mr. Prim has furnished the Rev. Dr. Rowan with evidence of the truth of that learned divine's assertion, that a *hobby theory* will run away with the steadiest rider when he is once fairly astride. It is not fair that what Hartry wrote centuries ago must now, because it clashes with our modern speculations, be nullified by supposing the friar to have invented untruths regarding the ordinary use and identity of a tomb standing in the choir of the abbey church with which he was connected. But Mr. Prim has suggested that Hartry originated a supposed false tradition in the neighbourhood of Holy Cross as to this same tomb, by stating to *visitors* his conjectures respecting it. This admission, that there were such visitors to Hartry at Holy Cross Abbey, appears to me to cut down the bridge behind Mr. Prim, for in another part of his reply he admits that Hartry's authority, as to the use of the tomb or sedilia, would be conclusive 'had the abbey continued to be used as a religious and conventual building to father Hartry's time, and had he been regularly admitted amongst its brotherhood. But such (says he) was not the case.' Let us now see what Walter Harris says in contradiction to this, in his edition of Ware's Writers. It is this—'John, alias Malachy Hartrey . . . was a Waterford man by birth, and a Cistercian monk in the abbey of Nucale in Spain; but, returning into Ireland, he *resided in the abbey of Holy Cross* in the county of Tipperary, *where I suppose he officiated as Parish Priest*.' Mr. Harris adds to this, that in the year 1733, he borrowed the Triumphalia from the then parish priest of *Holy Cross*. The year just mentioned was only eighty-four years after the Triumphalia had been written, and it is probable that at that time, and in that locality, all about its author was well known.

"There exists no sort of doubt that the monument was a real tomb. On reference made to the Triumphalia since the discussion on this subject, in 1849, it appears that the picture of the tomb is *underwritten*—'*Inclitum gloriosi Principis & Martiri Monumentum*;' while on the margin of it is, '*Filii bonæ mulieris Monumentum in cænobio Sanctæ Crucis*.' In the manuscript, on the back of the picture (which is on vellum), in treating of the monument, it is designated, '*Bonæ mulieris filii Tumulus*,' in red ink, and in characters of a larger size than the other words on the same page. But this, if Mr. Prim's estimate of father Hartry be correct, may be a fraud of Father Hartry, for Mr. Prim says, 'I do not wish to imply that the worthy monk wilfully misrepresented the matter, but I think it *perfectly obvious* that he had a great object to gain in giving the strongest colour which he possibly could, to any statement calculated to gain a high repute amongst the people for the religious house to which he belonged; and *no doubt* this mysterious legend of the Good Woman's Son was one which in proper hands could easily be made to give the monastery a great prestige amongst a simple-minded and romantic peasantry.' Here Mr. Prim admits Hartry to have belonged to the monastery of Holy Cross, although we have already found him denying that Hartrey was regularly admitted therein! Really, one must be as simple-minded as those peasantry are supposed to have been, to imagine that friar Hartry could at once be knave enough to practise such imposition, and yet so consummate a blockhead, if the monument was not really a tomb, as to attempt to prove it one by falsely narrating that the body of one Peter Purcell, which had been buried in it, was subsequently removed by order of Sir Hugh Purcell about the feast of St. John the Baptist, in the year 1603. This date was

only thirty-seven years before Hartry wrote. He gave day and date, and the names of the parties then recently concerned, there then being in existence very many persons who must have known whether such a transaction had happened or not. It is contrary to reason to believe that any sane person would attempt to invent and obtain credence for such a number of fancied lies about the monument being a tomb, and its having been used as such so short a time before Hartry wrote as the year 1603.

"But why should we rest on the authority of a history or of a tradition which has been thus, however unwarrantably, impugned? The Triumphalia admittedly contains stories of real, or legends of pretended, miracles, and I have been taunted with my having placed any reliance on it, the more particularly as I had myself imputed an anachronism to it. I answer that I do not think it just or fair to set down a writer as the inventor of falsehood, because he happens to have erred in chronology. I know sufficient of the mixture of fable and fact, and of the practice of embellishment, to believe that a judicious reader can separate them and distinguish between them. I am not of those who think that bardic lore, or Keating's or O'Halloran's histories of Ireland should be altogether rejected by reason of marvellous stories to be found interspersed amongst their contents. Let me now state as a finale to the *tomb-theory* what, on recent inquiry, turns out to be the fact. It is this—during the repairs of the abbey of Holy Cross a few years ago, this very monument was opened and examined. *It was found to be a very deep grave, and to contain human bones.* This fact subverts all speculation, and sets the sepulchral character of the monument at rest for ever!

"It is to me matter of indifference whether the monument may have been used as a sedilia or not; but I remain of opinion that it was not originally intended to be used as such. The ancient tomb-stone with foliated cross, covering the interior portion of the table of the tomb, is *several inches higher than the outside of the table*, or, as Mr. Prim will have it, seat, by whichever name it may be called. The same slab comes within one foot of the outer edge of the monument, thereby limiting the depth of space for sitting. Hence, the depth of seat, supposing it to have been intended for one, is no more than twelve inches; although the entire depth of the recess of the monument, including the breadth of the ancient tomb-slab, is fully three feet. Had it been intended for a seat it is unaccountable why it should not have been left deeper when there was no want of sufficient space to permit it to be so. Moreover, the breadth between the pillars is but eighteen inches. The supposed seat, therefore, would be only eighteen inches wide, by twelve inches in depth, an area altogether inadequate for a mitred abbot, bishop, or other ecclesiastic, robed in full state pontificals. The elevation of the old tomb-slab above the remainder of the table, shows that it was reckoned the most honoured object there, inferior though it was in workmanship to the rest of the monument.

"Mr. Prim has, I believe, been over hasty in reproving me for having written that proof was afforded that the monument was not erected more early than the year 1399, as the arms of France were represented on it by *three fleurs-de-lis*; and that learned gentleman is not quite correct in asserting that it was Henry V., who ascended the throne A. D., 1413, that first reduced the number of *fleurs-de-lis* in his armorial escutcheon to *three*, Henry IV. having previously reduced them to *five*. It is unnecessary for me, in maintenance of what I have already written on this point, to do more than refer to the picture of the coronation of Henry IV., as copied from the Harleian MS., in vol. i. of 'Old England,' where the herald in front of the throne is represented as holding an escutcheon on which France has only *three fleurs-de-lis*. We may, therefore, infer that the number of *fleurs-de-lis* began to be limited to three in the time of Henry IV. At all events, a difference of some fourteen years or so in the age of the monument is not, at this distance of time, very material.

"Another of the errors which Mr. Prim charges me with is, my having written to the effect that the armorial ensign of Holy Cross was what I (advisedly) called a *double cross*, which Mr. Prim tells us is termed in heraldry the *cross-patriarchal*. Mr. Prim complains that I did not supply this cross from the Triumphalia, at the same time that he expresses himself in regard to it thus, 'I much doubt the antiquity of the bearing. I think it not improbable that it was adopted *about father Hartry's own time.*' Notwithstanding Mr. Prim's generous correction of me, I continue to think that the term *double cross* is more applicable than that of *cross-patriarchal* to express the sort of cross of which I was writing. It is formed of a shaft and two horizontal arms of *equal lengths*, while the *cross-patriarchal* has its arms of *unequal lengths*. As Mr. Prim has supposed the abbey to have been more than a hundred years disused, and, probably, a ruin when

father Hartry was writing, he has thereby unconsciously proved that the *double cross* was not first adopted in Hartry's time; for this remarkable form of cross is still extant on the mitre covering the head of an abbot, which ornaments the key-stone of one of the arches or flying buttresses crossing the southern aisle of the church at Holy Cross.

"I am indebted to Mr. Prim for a rubbing of the arms on the fourth shield, on the tomb of The Good Woman's Son, and I have again minutely inspected the original (in the month of April, 1852). It is eight inches long, by five inches and three quarters in breadth. I am yet of opinion that it presents to view a saltire between twelve pears. It seems that the pear was an armorial bearing of the Cistercian order. Tanner's '*Notitia Monastica*' shows, that three pears pendent were borne by the Cistercian abbey at Wardon, and a bend between pendent pears was on the arms of the Augustinian house at Hertland, Devonshire. Possibly the saltire was borne on the Holy Cross shield (that being the cross of St. Patrick) to distinguish this house from others. The arms of France are on the ruins of the Cistercian abbey at Bective. This seems to be in consequence of St. Bernard having originated the order in that country, whence the house at Furnes in Lancashire was supplied with monks, and to Furnes, Holy Cross abbey was subject. This might account for the arms of France and England on the tomb. The plain cross appertained to several religious houses, such as the Temple at London, and others. Butley abbey, Suffolk, bore a chief indented, resembling the arms of the family of Butler. Thus the whole of the armorial bearings on this monument may possibly, after all, be purely religious. I cannot avoid thinking that these insignia, if they be lay ones, wholly (independent of other proofs) subvert the idea of the beautiful monument at Holy Cross having been erected as a mere piece of church furniture, such as a set of sedilia must be considered.

"In concluding this paper, I cannot help giving expression to my abhorrence of the want of taste and decency which has very recently allowed two modern graves and a rudely sculptured head-stone to encroach on, and conceal the elegant workmanship displayed on the tomb of the Good Woman's Son."

Mr. Prim said, that although he saw no reason to alter the opinions to which he had previously given expression on this subject, he yet did not intend to occupy the attention of the Society with any answer to the paper of Mr. Cooke, as he believed that his doing so would not be likely to tend to any useful purpose. It was evident from the views of the architectural age of the structure in dispute, adhered to by Mr. Cooke, and his persistence in looking upon the ermine spots, on the escutcheon of the Desmond family, as *pears*, that that gentleman and he could never be led to regard in the same light, the clearest and most obvious evidence which they had on the subject—that afforded by the sculptures on the structure itself; and Mr. Cooke had now, in replying to his (Mr. Prim's) former paper, in so many places given a meaning to some of his expressions and additional force to others, which he (Mr. Prim) never intended they should convey and such as he conceived the words, due regard being had to the context, would not afford, that, were he to enter upon a reply, so many and such lengthy explanations and quotations from former passages would be involved, in order to show the real meaning of what he had written, the discussion should necessarily degenerate into a mere logomachy, which would be altogether beside the original subject in dispute, and could not possibly have interest for any meeting of the Society. If any one cared to inquire what answer he had to make to Mr. Cooke's charges against him of misrepresentations respecting father Hartry, they would find sufficient answer in his (Mr. Prim's) second paper, in the *Transactions* of the Society for the year 1849, to which Mr. Cooke's paper purported to be a reply. He was willing that his theory should stand or fall by what he had already

written on the matter. Whether or not the structure had ever been used as a tomb, it was obviously intended by the builders as the sedilia of the abbey church. As regarded the Rev. Dr. Rowan, that gentleman should be admitted to be well qualified to act as an umpire in such a dispute as this, but he had confessedly written on the subject without visiting Holy Cross. However, he (Mr. Prim) had learned from him (Dr. Rowan) that he had since been to see the abbey, and intended at a future meeting to lay before the Society the altered impressions to which personal inspection of the object in dispute had given rise. How far those impressions were likely to be favourable to Mr. Cooke's or his own (Mr Prim's) views, remained to be seen.

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### GENERAL MEETING,

Held at the Society's Apartments, Patrick-street, Kilkenny,

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 7th, 1853,

THE MARQUIS OF ORMONDE, in the chair.

The following Members were elected:—The Right Hon. Lord Stopford; The Right Hon. Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart.; and the Rev. Philip W. Doyne, M.A., Precentor of Ferns: proposed by Mr. Herbert F.Hore.

William D. de Rythre, Esq., Riverstown House, Monasterevan; the Rev. James Kilbride, Ballylinan Cottage, Athy; and Robert Molyneux, Esq., V.S., Kilkenny: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Rev. George H. Reade, Inniskeen Rectory, Dundalk; Rev. George R. Mackarness, Barnwell Rectory, Oundle, Northamptonshire; Rev. Charles O'Connell, P.P., Balbriggan; and Rev. Charles W. Russell, D.D., Dundalk: proposed by Mr. Richard Hitchcock.

John R. MacCullagh, Esq., R.M., Kilrush, County Clare: proposed by Mr. Mark O'Shaughnessy.

Richard Johnston, Esq., Architect, 93, Leinster-road, Rathmines, Dublin: proposed by Mr. J. G. Robertson.

The Rev. John Byron, M.A., Vicar of Killingholme-with-Harborough, Lincolnshire: proposed by the Rev. T. R. Brown.

Ross Mahon, Esq., Ladywell, Athlone: proposed by Mr. J. O'Daly. Lynden Dunne, Esq., Ballinakill; and Mr. John Gibbons Miller, Carlow: proposed by Mr. Joseph Burke.

The following presentations were received and thanks for them ordered to be given to the donors:—

By the Royal Dublin Society, the *Catalogue* of its Library, with *Supplement*.

By the Society of Antiquaries of London:—*Archæologia*, vol. xxxv., part 1., its *Proceedings*, Nos. 33 to 36 inclusive, and the *Catalogue of the Kerrich Collection of Roman Coins*. By the committee of the Guild-Hall Library, London, the *Catalogue of the London Traders', Tavern, and Coffee-house Tokens, preserved in the Beaufoy Collection*.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, its *Journal*, No. 38.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association, *Archæologia Cambrensis*, No. 15.

By Rev. T. R. Brown, a *Grammar of Hebrew Hieroglyphs*, and *The Essentials of Sanscrit Grammar*.

By Mr. R. Hitchcock, Mr. John Gray Bell's *Topographical Catalogue*.

By Mr. Edward H. Paget, a most valuable and interesting collection of rubbings of English monumental brasses and slabs, thirty-three in number.

By Mr. Evelyn P. Shirley, Houndshill, Stratford-on-Avon, a fine gutta-percha impression of the seal of Thomas Barret, bishop of Elphin from 1372 to 1404. The device was a Gothic canopy of elegant workmanship, beneath which was represented the Blessed Virgin crowned and seated with the Saviour in her arms; above, the half-length figure of a bishop with mitre and crozier. The canopy bore a shield charged with three mitres; showing, as Mr. Shirley pointed out, that the ancient arms of the see were different from those at present in use. The inscription in black-letter, was—SIGILLUM DOMINI THOME DEI GRACIA ELPHINENSIS EPISCOPI.

By Mr. Wogan, Carrick-on-Suir, an antique brass seal, which had been in his possession for many years, and was stated to have been found in some ecclesiastical ruin. The seal was of the wheel pattern, exhibiting four faces, respectively charged with the dove and olive branch, a heart pierced by two darts, a *fleur-de-lis*, and a field *semé* of stars.

By Mr. A. Nugent, a corbel, of grit-stone, rudely carved into a human head, and of considerable antiquity.

By Rev. James Graves, five specimens of the ancient encaustic tiles, and a roofing slate, picked up during a recent visit to Jerpoint Abbey,

By Mr. William F. Wakeman, Dublin, author of the *Hand-book of Irish Antiquities*, &c., two fine specimens of ancient inlaid flooring tiles from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin; also an exceedingly curious example of the same class, about two inches square, containing the Lombardic capital letter G., from the abbey founded by the De Courcys at Downpatrick, County of Down.

By Mr. James S. Blake, two of the ancient flooring tiles of Jerpoint Abbey.

By Mr. Hitchcock, on the part of Mr. Dunlevy, of Dingle, an old sword, with its wooden sheath, said to have been used in the war between the Greeks and Turks.

By the Rev. James Mease, Mr. R. Smithwick, Rev. J. L. Drapes, Mr. J. Davis White, Mr. H. Malony and Mr. P. Phelan, several ancient coins.

By Mr. M. Kearney, *fac-simile* copies of four ancient inscriptions from St. Mary's church, Irishtown, Clonmel, as a contribution towards a collection of the antiquities of that town. The inscriptions were as follow:—

"1. Hic jacet D. Nicolaus White Armiger, vir pietate constantia mansuetudine et integritate morum conspicuus et amabilis, obiit 30 die Augusti, 1622. Eius corpus ex antecessorum capella, quæ borealem sacelli huius partem respicit, in hoc monumentum 22 die Decembris, 1623, translatus est, cuius animæ propitiatur Deus; sacellum hoc, S. Nöi. Jesu eiusque genetricis B. Mariæ Virginis dicatum, construxerunt in perpetuam dicti

Nicolai memoriam Barbara White uxor eius vidua, et Henricus White, filius eius et hæres."

"2. Insignia Joanis White armigeri quondam comit. Palatini Tiperariæ Senechal, comitat. Waterfordiæ Viscomitis, Clonmell primi majoris. Sic [transit] mundi gloria. Benedictus Viteus Hæres dicti Joanis, et Alsonæ hæc fieri fecerunt."

"3. Hic jacet Galfridus Barron, qui obiit 22 Marti A.D., 1601, et Belina White uxor ejus, quæ hunc tumulum fieri fecit A. DI. 1605, et obiit A.D.M. 1610, quarum aiabus propitiatur Deus."

"4. Hic jacet Terrentius O'Donel qui obiit 4 Marti, 1565, et ejus uxor Elæne [Huet] quæ obiit 24 Aprilis, 1591. Eorum filii hunc tumulum fieri fecerunt, A.D. 1592, quibus sit propitius omnipotens. Amen."

The Rev. T. R. Brown, of Oundle, sent the following interpretation of the legend on the ancient porcelain Chinese seal, found near Thomas-town, and formerly presented to the Museum by the Rev. J. Graves:—

"I think your Chinese seal reads *Tsin Kao*; which may be translated 'A little but lofty mountain [is a] noble [sight].' Like many other seals this appears to have an occult meaning, as 'a great soul in a little body.'"

Mr. Brown also forwarded an interpretation of the celebrated Runic Ogham, taken from Henselius' *Synopsis Universæ Philologiæ*, p. 84, tab. 2, No. 3, and called *Lapis Rogstadensis*, in Helsingia. The result of Mr. Brown's investigation was the following:—

"Adam Brusai, the great grand-son of Noah, after a long voyage, arrived in safety at the island of Menix, in the Syrtis Minor, accompanied with a promiscuous multitude, armed with spears, and intending to go southward and find a quiet abode for their families. After having married the virgins of the city, they, fathers and their families accompanying them, hastened their departure to obtain a peaceful abode in a province south of the Syrtis Major."

Mr. Brown adds,

"I am not aware that any person beside myself has made a translation of this remarkable inscription. A knowledge of the manner of forming the Oghams proves to be the key for ascertaining the *true* alphabet of the cuneiform letters."

The same gentleman, professing to have but little knowledge of the Irish language, stated that with much diffidence he offers the following translation of the Glounaclough Ogham, engraved in vol. 1, p. 142, of the Kilkenny Archæological Society's Transactions:—

"*Cunh Gus Sosh*," i.e., "The time of the death cessation."

Mr. Brown supposes that if the inscription was perfect, some criterion for fixing the name and date of the person commemorated would be found on the stone. He says—

"If I am right in my interpretation of the sentence on this stone, it might be of very ancient date, as its construction is of Phœnician appearance."

He adds:—

"I have been much amused and somewhat edified with the *pros* and *cons* bestowed on the Burnfort Ogham. Allow me to suggest a third interpretation of the word cut on the stone. The letters seem to be *sagittary*; now as *y* is often, in ancient writing, put for *ii*, and *ii* for *y*, the inscription may read *sagittarii*—archers. If so, it is a Latin word, and shows the inscription to be of a somewhat recent date; and if the stone properly belongs to the place where it was found, we may, I think, conclude that the rath

was the scene of a *battle*, and that the stone records the burial of the *archers* that were slain there. It is no matter of surprise that an *Irish* Ogham should bring forth a Latin word; for I have a *Runic* Ogham that must be read in Greek; and I have seen one in the Arabic language."

Mr. Graves brought before the meeting a report by Mr. J. Dunne, Garryricken, that having visited the church-yard of Killamory on the 15th of August, he found that the remains of the ancient chancel wall, which enclosed the tombs of the Lee family, had been uprooted in the previous week, and appropriated in making a sewer and fence in the vicinity of the police barrack there. The body of the ancient place of worship, with its ivy-covered arch, was taken down, in 1815, as materials for building the present parish church; but the moss-covered stones uprooted on this occasion have, on the contrary, been cast into a common sewer!

The meeting expressed its sense of the gross impropriety of such acts as that reported by Mr. Dunne, and Mr. Graves mentioned that the outrage had probably occurred in consequence of the absence of the incumbent, the parish being at present vacant.

Mr. Dunne also forwarded accurate measurements of the tomb, bearing an Irish inscription, which he had discovered in Killamory church-yard; and in allusion to the recent communication of Mr. D'Alton, on the finding of the beam of timber in the rath of Curraleigh, mentioned the fact of squared beams of oak having been discovered projecting horizontally from the bottom of the rath of Poulacapple into the entrenchment at its base; and which were left untouched by the excavators, lest their removal might provoke the anger of the "good people." Some very curious folk-lore, respecting the same rath, was also communicated by Mr. Dunne.

Mr. John O'Daly contributed an Irish poem on the origin of armorial bearings, of which he gives the following account:—

"This curious poem and translation are preserved in a MS. translation into English, of Dr. Keating's *Forus Feasa ar Eirinn*, made by Michael Kearney of Ballyloskye, in the County Cross of Tipperary, A.D. 1635–65, now in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, being among the collection made by that ardent lover of the language and literature of his country—the late ever-to-be-lamented William Elliot Hudson, Esq., who bought it from me, and whose library, I understand, was bequeathed to that institution. The book turned up at the sale of colonel Howard's library, at Sharpe's auction rooms, Dublin, in 1847; and I became the purchaser, and sold it afterwards to Mr. Hudson. It is written in the most beautiful style of penmanship, both English and Irish, and in all probability is the copy which the earl of Orrery got translated for the express purpose of seeing whether the work was calculated to inflame the minds of the peasantry to open rebellion, as was generally supposed at the time. Michael Kearney was the translator of the poem on 'The Kings of the Race of Eibhear,' which I published in 1847, a copy of which I presented to the Society some time ago. He is the earliest known English versifier of Irish poetry; which, however deficient in rhythm, critics should not sneer at, if they only consider the imperfect state of the English language at the time. He introduces the poem as follows:—

"THE ARMS OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

"The Use of Armes and Escouchions is anciently obserued by the Irishry, in imitation of y<sup>e</sup> Children of Israell, who began to vse them in Egypt (at which time the Ancestor of all the Irishry, called 3A0767l, or Gathelus, there liued), which Armes, the

Israellits at their passing through y<sup>e</sup> Redd Seas, vnder the conduct of Moyses, did carry in their severall Banners. They were in all Twelue Tribes, and each Tribe had a certaine number of men vnder his own command w<sup>th</sup> Dictinct Banners and Armes.

|              |                                                                                                               |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Tribe of | Ruben<br>Symeon<br>Levi<br>Juda<br>Isacor<br>Sdabulon<br>Neptalem<br>Gad<br>Ioseph<br>Beniamen<br>Dan<br>Aser | Did give in Banners | Mandraga.<br>A Speare.<br>The Arcke.<br>A Lyon.<br>The Asse.<br>A Shipp.<br>The picture of an Oxe.<br>The picture of a Lyonesse.<br>A Bull.<br>A Woulfe.<br>A Serpent.<br>An Olive branch. |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

“ And that these Armes formerly mentioned were those which the children of Israel beare in their Banners, it is warranted by an ancient Irish Rhyme extant in the oldest MS. of Leackine in Ormond within the County of Tipperary, which Rhyme in Irish, translated into English, Disticke for Disticke, is as followeth:—

Դիճե ծան չա՛ւ մայրէ նորն,  
Կօ Բա՛յ աչ լայրոյ սալալէ՛ լա՛ծօծ;  
Եարս քե՛ւ՛ս ար հ-այլեւ ան,  
ՋՅՁ Կ-Երէ՛ Ջիդե և Կ-Արմանոյ.

Երե՛ս Կ՛ւբեն Կա՛ւ Կօր-ճօԲայր,  
Կօ՛ Ե՛ւ և մայրէ Մանդրա՛ճայր;  
Կէ՛ Բա՛յ Կօ՛ ճարէ ան Երե՛ս Եւ,  
Կօ՛ Լե՛ռ Կլա՛ճ Կարէ և մայրէ,

Երե՛ս Տիմեոն ո՛րոյ ի՛նչ մայրէ,  
Ջի՛ւ Ե՛ւ Բա՛յ Բա՛յրո՛ւ ճի՛ւ-ճիմայր;  
Տիմեոն ան Երիտոն ճալճա՛ւ,  
Այ Երիտ Բա՛ ճի՛ւ-ճարճա՛ւ.

Երե՛ս Լեւի Լու՛ւ Կա Կ-Ջիմսե,  
Կօ՛ճա և Երե՛ս Կա՛ւ-Երոմ-ճարէ;  
Բա՛ ճարէ Եւ Կլարէ Կօ,  
Կարճի Կա Կ-Ջիմսե և Կօ.

Մայրէ աչ Երե՛ս Լի՛ճա Կրիւ,  
Տա՛մար Լե՛ճայր Լան-ճալմա;  
Երե՛ս Կօ՛ճար ան Կարի ճիմայր,  
Տա՛մար ճիմայր Կա ճի՛ւ-ճարճա՛ւ.

Երե՛ս Կա՛ճար ան ճի՛ւր Գլօր,  
Մայրէ Կի՛ւ Կար Կար;  
Միմ Կլճ՛ Եւ Կ-Երէ՛ս Կ-Երե՛ս,  
Այ ան մայրէ մօր Կարե՛ւ.

Երե՛ս Տա՛Բալոն Կա Կլալ Կ-Ջալ,  
Եալ և մայրէ Կո՛ճ Լու՛ճար;  
Բա՛ Երե՛ս Կար Երիտ Եա՛, և  
Կա՛ Կա Կո՛ճար Լու՛ճար.

Եալ Երիտ-Ալար Կարճի Կրիւ,  
ՋՅՁ Երե՛ս Նե՛ճալմ Կրիմայր;  
Եր Երե՛ս Կօ՛ ճա՛ւ Կար ճիմայր,  
Մօր Եարս Լա՛ւ Կար Լա՛ւ-ճիմայր.

Display I will in their Banners, what Armes  
Holly [holy] Jacob's issue blazed;  
Ffor others scarce their names did knowe,  
Which kept them still outrazed.

The Tribe of Ruben full blessed with grace,  
Mandrake for Armes vsed;  
And long happy dayes their liues out spent,  
And worthy warriours raised.

A Javelin speare for Marshall show,  
Most dreadfull Symeon granting;  
None wiser was then hee, I say,  
To tame his foes with mangling.

The Tribe of Levi by the Arck preserued,  
Ffor wealth most rich and manners;  
Presaging cleere their future weale,  
Did beare the Arck in their Banners.

The Rampant Lyon did Juda Tribe,  
With honour in field maintaine;  
Which free from feare and vndaunted mynes,  
Their Banners still kept from staine.

Isacare's Tribe that golden mynes,  
For purity dearely kept;  
Their Banners blazoned with the Asse,  
Did them most highly Decke.

Enclined to Seas stoute Stabulon's Tribe  
In their banners a Shipp pourtrayed,  
And Neptune's waues did traverse oft,  
With stronge fletee still arrayed.

The pollard's place in Collours bore,  
With Neptalem's Eagerly Tribe;  
In warlike feates they terrible were,  
And with them valiant men did side.

Պէրնջէ աշ Երեյն Յիսա Դ զ-Յեօ չօլ,  
Պար ծելն Եփօր Դր Եար-Լեօմար;  
Ոո՞ւ Դր էփր իւ Բ-Բաօ Ե-Բօշլա՞ւ,  
Եա՛ւ Լաօ՞ւ իրոյր իսոյր Պաօլ-Երնջէ.

Պէրնջէ Պար ԷանԵ չօ իօր իւր,  
Շիօրն աշ Երեյն Եօրփ օրնԵրն;  
Տալէրն զա իրոյն ԵաճԵ,  
Ան Երոյն Եան ԵօմարԵ.

ԵրեաԵ Երնարոյ չօ իօր իւր,  
Ի՞նչ Ե՞լ Դ իւրնջէ օր իւրնջն;  
Պէրնջէ Պար Դ Ե-Բաօ Ե-Բօշլա՞ւ,  
Ե'երնջէ իւրն Էաօրն ԵօմարԵ.

ԵրեաԵ Եան Եա ԵալԵրեա՞ւ Դ Երեա,  
Օրոյն Երնարեա՞ւ Եօլջէ ԵալԵ՞լլ;  
Երն իւ Է՞լօրն Եա Եօլջ Ե,  
Պար իւրնջն իօրն Դ իւրնջէ.

ԵրեաԵ Արն իօրն ԷրալԵ սո Էրա՞ւ,  
Պէրնջէ Եար Լեա իւր Լեար;  
Պար Եօր Էարսլ Դ ԵօճԵ,  
Իր Էրաօն Էարոյր իւրոյ օլ.

Ի՞նչ Էրնար Էալ Դ ԵրեաԵ,  
Ի՞նչ Էրն իօրն Դ իւրնջէ;  
Պար Էան Ե'օրնջա զա ԵրեաԵ Ե,  
Բար չա իւրն Դ իւրնջա Դ Էրն.

Ա-Է-Ն-Ե.

The Tribe of Gad a Lyonesse boare,  
To warr their minds advanceinge;  
In time of neede not Dastard like,  
These Champions fell a pranceinge.

Noble Joseph's Tribe being greate for  
A Bull to show their might; [strength,  
Embraceinge peace they boare that Coate.  
And leade their Courses right.

The forward Tribe of Benjamin,  
Over other Ensignes raised;  
In their banner the Woulfe its fiercefull hue,  
That hopefull Tribe appeased.

Dan's Dangerous Tribe to spoyles disposed,  
In their Coate a greene serpent bore;  
A Bauner fitt for miscreants,  
Their venomous minds to plore.

And bountyfull Aser's noble Tribe,  
An Olive branch imbraced;  
Of other Coates they did it choose,  
Their hearts it fittly faced.

Thus Israell's Trybes in number twelue,  
I offerred to the view;  
Their Ensignes Deare displayed to life,  
I blazoned for their due.

Display I will, &c."

The following paper was forwarded to the Secretaries by the Rev. A. B. Rowan, D.D., Belmont, Tralee, on the much vexed question of the supposed monument at Holy Cross:—

"When the Rev. Mr. Graves in acknowledging my former paper on the Holy Cross monument, remarked (with that quiet good humour which always impresses an observation more forcibly) how singular it was that three of those who had written on this subject (namely, Sir William Betham, Dr. Petrie, and myself, unworthy to be named with these authorities) *had never seen the monument at all!* I confess I was at once struck with my own rashness, in venturing even a speculation on the case without ocular inspection, and determined to remedy the error on the first opportunity; accordingly, on a late journey to Dublin, by leaving an early train at Thurles, I was enabled to spend an hour or two at Holy Cross, resuming my journey in the evening.

"Before I proceed to correct my own misapprehensions concerning this monument, I must offer a few words in reference to Mr. Cooke's last paper on the subject. I own that with the *printed* Transactions of the Society before me, it never occurred to me to refer 'either to him or to his MS. in custody of the Secretary' for more correct versions of his opinions, but from the moment I understood from him that his paper in the Transactions for 1849, was not only 'incorrectly printed' but 'curtailed,' of course any further critical examination of it was at an end, nor do I recur to it now with that view when I observe that what I really did assert as to Mr. Cooke's view, was *in terms* thus: 'The *general* bearing of the arguments and local traditions on which Mr. Cooke relies, *would seem* to identify the 'Good Woman's Son' with a certain Feorus Fionn.' Surely this does not charge him with delivering any absolute dogmatic opinion on the subject, though I still think that any one reading his paper, *as printed*, might fairly conclude that the bearing of his opinion was in favour of the view of the 'Triumphalia.'

"Again, accepting Mr. Cooke's correction of the misprint 'seven' for *seventeen*, still it does not make his calculation accurate. Queen Elenor's first husband died A.D.

1216; Feorus Fionn died 1233. Unless 'the funeral baked-meats did coldly furnish forth the marriage feast,' she could not have married her second husband for a decent interval after the death of the first, and even if we make Feorus Fionn the *eldest* of her six children by her second husband, he could not be more than *fifteen* years of age in 1233; at least he *could* not, without an imputation on his mother's fair fame and repute, which I am sure Mr. Cooke would be as far as myself from casting on any 'Good Woman.'

"I now recur to the monument itself, and have to make acknowledgment of more than one erroneous impression derived from the general description of others, and from plates, which though they give the monument with sufficient accuracy, give no proper idea of its position in the building in which it is erected. 'From Dr. Petrie's observation,' that 'it occupied the place of the founder's tomb,' I was led to picture it to myself as in the north chancel wall—and from prints in the 'Dublin Penny Journal' and Mr. Sainthill's 'Olla Podrida,' I had imagined it placed at an elevation from the ground, inconsistent with the idea of its being a sedilia, whereas I found it in the south chancel wall (the usual position of a founder's tomb being occupied by a monument of the O'Fogarty family), and its elevation from the ground presents no difficulty to the supposition that it may have been a sedilia, while the disproportioned height of the monument also gives an impression of the compartments being narrower than they are in reality. A portly abbot with flowing vestments would scarce be accommodated, but three ordinary men *might* find sitting room in the compartments, though in a crowded fashion, scarce compatible with solemnity. I say this in fairness to the advocates of the sedilia theory, though I must own that closer inspection does not induce me much more to their views of the question. My original idea that the slab or seat (as the case may be) had been an ancient altar covering-stone, was completely disproved on inspection—it is obviously a sepulchral slab, and strange to say does not fill or fit the place in which it lies—it is too short by about a foot and a-half, and is altogether so incongruous to the monument itself as to suggest either of two notions concerning it—it was either an original tomb slab which occupied the place of the monument before its erection, and was retained in its position through respect, or veneration, or else it was introduced as a make-shift covering at a later period after the original, a fully-fitting slab, had been removed or broken—if we could obtain any details of that examination of the tomb which Mr. Cooke mentions as having been made no long time since, we might learn something as to the placing of this stone in its present position.

"The question which I suggested as to the existence of a low window for watching the Easter tomb, was also settled in the negative, the very remarkable plan of Holy Cross Abbey, in having four chapels running parallel with the chancel, two on each side, rendered the existence of any such window impossible.

"From a paper of Mr. Prim's which mentions a rubbing taken from the escutcheon supposed to bear the Desmond arms, I had thought the question settled that the bearings on the shield were the ermine marks of the field—on inspection, however, it appears to me, either that the carving had been defaced since the rubbing was taken, or, if remaining uninjured, that the bearings, *if ermine marks*, are very rudely sculptured, and that they may well be 'pears' according to Mr. Cooke's last suggestion—'*apples*' are altogether out of the question.

"I must now mention a feature of the monument of which I have seen no notice hitherto, and which may have a bearing on Mr. Cooke's legend of the 'Good Woman's Son,' whoever that mysterious person may prove to be.

"The whole monument has to me the appearance of a monastic caprice, executed not according to any strict principles of construction, but after the plan of some designer who consulted his own fancy rather than severe rules, or proportions of art; indeed the whole building (marked on almost every stone of the interior with some masonic device) abounds with *capricios*, which would seem to have been suggested by some irregular taste to 'puzzle posterity,'—the interspace marked by twisted columns separating the two chapels opening off the south transept, presents a subject for conjecture as to its use, quite as perplexing as the chancel monument itself.

"Among these caprices, may be reckoned one of those light and elegant columns, which divide our monument into compartments. About half way up the column there are the remains of a delicately carved head or bust, *standing out in relief from the pillar*, and which must have been carved out of the solid stone, of which the pillar is composed, with great labour, and at the same time with the pillar itself. The head is much defaced, some rude hand has knocked away a large portion of it, but enough remains to show

that the original execution of the head was elaborate, that the direction of the face was towards the altar, and that the effigy was intended for a youthful, if not angelic countenance. The other pillar bears no trace of any similar sculpture.

"A question naturally arises as to what can have been the object of a carving, so elaborate and minute, in such a position, an *excrecence* as it were on the symmetry of the monument—having once had the idea of Mr. Cooke's legend presented to the mind, one cannot shut out the suggestion that this effigy may have been intended to commemorate the 'Son of the Good Woman;' if this idea be rejected, the feature (a peculiar one) remains to be accounted for.

"As to my own idea, that this monument may have been 'The Easter altar-tomb,' I have nothing to add to the original suggestion further than that I have often seen such tombs in similar positions below the sedilia on the south chancel wall of ancient churches. I am bound, however, to add, that as I never saw sedilia so very narrow, so I never saw altar-tombs divided into compartments like those at Holy Cross.

"Mr. Cooke thinks my speculation as to the phrase 'Good Woman's Son' being a periphrasis to signify our Blessed Lord, worth consideration, but objects to the parallel expression I adduced of '*the Man above*' as used by the Irish peasant to signify God, as though I had mistaken an Irish term for an English one. But I beg to say that since I saw his paper, I have communicated with one of our best Irish scholars, and he confirms me in stating that the phrase used by our peasantry is that I have stated '*Far an ar*' 'the Man on high.'

"I fear my paper, being little more than a correction of mistakes, will be scarce worth reading to the Society: but I felt bound, as a member, to 'report progress' as to my examination of the question at issue. I shall only say now, in conclusion, that if Holy Cross Abbey lies within the region to which the cares of the Kilkenny Archæological Society extend, a little care would be well bestowed in interesting some party in its further preservation and better ordering—having seen at Muckcross, in my own county, what gradual and judicious attention can do in removing the unsightly defilements which too often disfigure popular burial-grounds, without doing any violence to prejudice or feeling, I am sure much might be done at Holy Cross to put it in more decent order, and allow tourists and antiquarians to admire it with less offence to every sense than at present. Much might also be done at small expense in tracing out the ground-plan of the abbey; and I am sure that any member who would induce the proprietor to join our archæological corps and second archæological researches and clearances at Holy Cross, would do 'yeoman service' in reference to one of the most interesting ruins in Ireland."

Mr. Graves pointed out, that Dr. Rowan had mistaken the bearings on the shield, which were clearly neither apples nor pears, but ermine spots, as might be seen by reference to similar carvings of arms on the tombs of the Sweetman family in Newtown church, county of Kilkenny, on Purcell's Cross, in St. Patrick's cemetery, Kilkenny, and on various monuments in St. Canice's Cathedral and Kilcooly Abbey.

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## GENERAL MEETING,

Held at the Society's Apartments, Patrick-street, Kilkenny,  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 1853,

JOHN JAMES, Esq., M.R.C.S.I., in the Chair.

The following Members were elected:—The Countess of Shannon; the Rev. A. F. Stopford, Hamerton, Huntingdon; Richard Frankland, Esq., Ashgrove House, Queenstown; and James Hugh Smith Barry, Esq., Foata Island, Queenstown: proposed by Lord James Butler.

Captain Hamilton, St. Kieran's, Parsonstown; the Rev. Thomas Hayden, Sraduff, Parsonstown; the Rev. Cornelius O'Brien, P.P.;

Lorrha, Borrisokane; Frederick Hamilton, Esq., Sharragh Lodge, Parsonstown; and James Blacker Morgan, Esq., 117, Lower Gardiner-street, Dublin: proposed by Mr. William B. De Rythre.

Francis H. Shields, Esq., Parsonstown; Rev. William M'Ilwaine, A.M. Belfast; Charles De la Cherois Purdon, Esq., M.D., Belfast; the Rev. John Quinn, P.P., Magherafelt; William Kelly, Esq., the Mall, Armagh; Charles Stanley, Esq., Roohan House, Dungannon; Alexander Patton, Esq., M.B., L.R.C.S.I., Tanderagee, county Armagh; George Stephenson, Esq., Lisburn; and P. Dillon, Esq., Greenock: proposed by Mr. Richard Hitchcock.

John Nugent, Esq., A.B., M.B., 14, Rutland-square, East, Dublin; Charles Uniacke Townsend, Esq., Carrickmacross, county of Monaghan; Aquilla Smith, Esq., M.D., 121, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin; John James Leckey, Esq. D.L., Ballykealy, Ballon, county of Carlow; J. Richardson Smith, Esq., Glenburn Cottage, Loch Gilphead, Argyleshire; Wm. Barker, Esq., M.D., M.R.I.A., Professor of Natural History, Royal Dublin Society; John Flood, Esq., View Mount, Whitehall, Bagnalstown; and John Swithenbank, Esq., Solicitor, 8, Park-row, Leeds: proposed by the Rev. J. Graves.

Mr. Patrick Aylward, Coal-market, Kilkenny: proposed by Mr. J. F. Shearman.

Edward O'Shaughnessy, Esq., Clonmel: proposed by Mr. Michael Kearney, Clonmel.

Charles Newport, Esq., 15, William-street, Waterford: proposed by Mr. Joseph Greene, jun.

John L. Conn, Esq., Mount Ida, New Ross; Dr. Samuel Chaplin, Carlow; Mr. Michael Molony, Clerk of the Union, Kilkenny; and Messrs. T. Montgomery and Son, House Painters, Kilkenny: proposed by Mr. J. G. A. Prim.

Augustus W. Franks, Esq., A.M., British Museum; and Mr. Thomas Hornage, T.C., Parsonstown: proposed by Mr. T. L. Cooke.

Francis Carroll, Esq., C.E., County Surveyor, Stanfield, Wexford: proposed by Mr. Samson Carter, jun.

Mr. Robert Goodbody, Mountmellick: proposed by Mr. Joseph Burke.

James Poe, Esq., Solicitor, Parade, Kilkenny: proposed by Mr. A. Denroche.

Mr. J. A. Grace, Christian Brothers' School, Richmond-street, North, Dublin: proposed by Mr. John O'Daly.

John Kinsella, Esq., Waterford; and Mr. James Dobbyn, Mullinavat: proposed by Mr. Patrick Cody.

The following presentations were received, and thanks for them ordered to be given to the donors:—

By the author, Richard Sainthill, Esq., Cork, *Olla Podrida*, Vol. ii., privately printed.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, its *Journal*, No. 39.

By the Geological Society of Dublin, its *Journal*, vol. v. part 3.

By Aquilla Smith, Esq., M.D., the *Supplement* to his Catalogue of Irish Tradesmen's Tokens.

By the author, the Rev. J. R. Brown, three tracts, viz.: *A Translation of the Vafthrudnismal, from the Edda, an Interpretation of the Ygdsasill*, and a *Translation of Cath Sodunn*.

By the Publisher, the *Builder*.

By Mr. John Spread, a drawing of a bronze bridle-bit, found six feet beneath the surface of a peat bog, in the ploughland of West Loughane, near Blarney, now preserved in Mr. Spread's collection.

By the Rev. James Mease, counterfeit casts of a bronze sword and two bronze celts, as well for the purpose of enabling collectors to distinguish between real and genuine antiquities, as because they were accurate *fac-similes* of the latter. Many similar counterfeits have been sold as genuine. Also, an antique iron spur, the pedigree of which the donor did not vouch for.

By Lord James Butler, several specimens of the gun-money of James II., for the purpose of completing the Society's set of this coinage.

By Mr. Francis R. Davies, Dublin, three leaden bullets, one of which appeared to have been flattened against a cuirass, and a plated button, recently picked up by him on the field of Aughrim.

By the Rev. James Graves, a curious bronze pin, with moveable ring-head, ornamented by looped knobs, also some old coins, comprising a short-cross penny of Henry III., a three-crown Irish groat, and specimens of Confederate and gun-money.

By Sir E. D. Borrowes, Bart., an impression from the steel die of the seal of the ducal family of De la Rochefoucauld, brought over to Ireland by one of that family, a refugee, at the close of the seventeenth century, and from whom the donor is descended.

By the Rev. G. S. Faber, Sherburne House, Durham, an impression of the personal seal of William de Brock, temp. Hen. II., accompanied by the following observations:—

"I observe in an article by the Rev. James Graves, p. 88, vol. i. of the Society's *Transactions*, that seals in the form of the *vesica piscis*, though originally ecclesiastical, were in after times, used indiscriminately both for lay and ecclesiastical purposes. What may perhaps interest the members, I send a somewhat bungling impression of a curious seal which was dug up in the church-yard of Long-Newton, Comit. Dumelm., while I was rector of that parish; I sent an impression to our late antiquary, Mr. Surtees. The exterior legend is perfectly plain—'Sigillum Willelmi de Broc'; the interior one, somewhat perplexed. Mr. Surtees told me that William de Broc was lord of Hurworth, a place about six miles from Long-Newton, temp. Henrici II. He supposed that he must have lost it from his neck, when on a visit to Long-Newton, there being a hole in the shank for the purpose of inserting a small cord. The seal, he said, was valuable from its rareness; it being usual to break them up on the death of the proprietor. My chief object in sending it is, a confirmation of Mr. Graves' opinion that the *vesica piscis* was the shape of seals either lay or ecclesiastical. According to Mr. Surtees, this innovation must have crept in so early as the 12th century. I cannot say whether De Broc of Hurworth was related to the De Broc who was one of the assassins of Beckett. Yet it *may* have been the seal of an ecclesiastic, a cadet of the Hurworth house of De Broc. You will observe an agnus and cross in the centre."

By Mr. Samson Carter, C.E., a large number of interesting specimens of encaustic tiles dug up by him last summer, during an exploration of one of the abbeys of the ancient deserted town of Clonmines, on the shore of Bannow bay, county of Wexford; they afforded some new types

of ornamentation, especially a graceful running border-pattern of vine leaves.

The Secretary laid on the table a quantity of similar objects found during the works at present in progress at Jerpoint Abbey, and which it was interesting to observe generally presented specimens of similar patterns to those found at Clonmines; also, a perfect example of one of the ancient roofing-slates of Jerpoint Abbey.

Mr. Graves said that he had on a former occasion alluded to the destruction caused at Dunbrody Abbey by the storm of Christmas eve, 1852. At a recent visit made by him to that ruin—now a ruin indeed—he was shocked to find the noble pile choked by heaps of rubbish, the debris of the fallen arcade. A few pounds expended in propping the structure would have prevented the fall of that building, but so far from this having been done, he actually heard the agent of the noble owner, lord Templemore, assert the astounding opinion that the abbey was *improved* by the fall of the arcade—the ruin being rendered more picturesque thereby! He thought that this meeting would hardly agree in the opinion propounded by that gentleman. Mr. Graves further stated he was informed that immediate steps would be taken to preserve what remained. Better late than never, he should say.

Dr. Johnson asked whether the splendid west window, which he had remembered to have seen in the abbey of Dunbrody, had escaped from ruin?

Mr. Graves said he was sorry to say that it had not. That splendid specimen of architecture had, however, fallen many years ago. The rumour of the locality was, that a neighbouring clergyman had asked permission of the lord Templemore of the day to execute some necessary repairs on it at *his own expense*, but was refused permission, in not the most civil manner, being told to mind his own affairs. He (Mr. Graves) hoped that this was not true—he only told the tale as it was told to him.

The Secretary said it was his further unpleasant duty to refer to the demolition of an interesting feature which, up to this summer, adorned the beautiful old church of Thomastown. The chancel of this fine structure had been taken down about forty years since to build the present church, and the south arcade had fallen many years ago, one Sunday morning, from the sure but slow progress of time and decay; but one fine arcade and an interesting two-light side-aisle window had remained, on the north-side, to delight the student of ancient church architecture. What was his dismay, when, on a visit to Thomastown, early in the October of this year, he found this window demolished, its shattered arch and graceful mullion forming a pile of rubbish beneath a yawning breach in the wall! On inquiry he learned that it had been deliberately taken down to prevent the urchins of the village from pilaging the nests of the birds who built in the adjoining parts of the ruin! For his part, and he was sure every lover of antiquity would agree with him, he thought that some broken glass would equally have answered the end in view. He had reason to know that the rector of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Irwin, who had been an active promoter of the repair of

Jerpoint Abbey, had never sanctioned the defacement of the ancient church of Thomastown.

Mr. Francis A. Dunlevy forwarded, through Mr. Hitchcock, an account of the recent discovery of an inscribed stone, found many feet below the surface of the turf bog of Moorestown, near Dingle, and promised to furnish further particulars thereof on a future occasion.<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. P. Moore, R.C.C., Rosbercon, communicated the following tradition, which, as he states, "goes to show how tradition may be relied on even when handed down through many generations. At Ballyknock I talked to an old man named Bryan Neill; after some conversation I told him he had a good Irish name, but a northern one rather than from this part of the country. He told me 'his family originally came from the north, and were settled in this county as long before the battle of Anghrim as since it was fought; one of the O'Neills married the lord Mountgarret, she brought six boys and six girls with her, she died after twelve months' time, and all the O'Neills went back again to the north, except one who became a *servant* to the "Ridiri Frenigh," and remained in Ballyknock ever since.'"

In reference to the paper of Mr. Hackett, on the subject of bovine traditions, read at the last meeting of the Society, Mr. Graves said he had received a letter from the Rev. G. S. Faber, stating the interest which he felt in the matter. Mr. Faber observed:—"I have no doubt that the legend of the cows is immediately connected with the mixed Arkite and Sabian superstition. In perhaps every region the cow was the symbol of the ark, but, at the same time, from the resemblance of its horns to a lunar crescent, was the sidereal type of the moon. I have entered very fully into discussions of this nature in my large work on Pagan Idolatry; and all the facts that have since come to light, confirm me in the justice of my principles. Much of the superstitions of Ireland were carried thither, I believe, at a very early period, by a branch of the Palli, or Shepherd Kings, when they were finally driven out of Egypt by the native princes, synchronically with the emigration of Israel, and in consequence of the destruction in the Red Sea, which finally broke their power. I remember a curious passage in Diodorus to this effect; but I cannot, without some trouble, lay my hand upon it. I suspect that there is a good deal of truth hidden under the writings of general Vallancey; but, unfortunately, his mode of reference to his authorities is such, that one knows not what to make of it. Identity in *matters arbitrary*, which is the case with all the old mythologies that I have encountered, proves a *common origination*; and that origination we cannot fix later than the dispersion from Babel. Here I think Mr. Bryant was wrong in his supposition, that the Cuttites *alone* were concerned in the Babel enterprise. Such a circumstance cannot account for the *identity of superstition* in all parts of the world, though he employs all his ingenuity to make out a case."

Mr. M. Walsh, Mullinavat, forwarded a drawing of an escutcheon of the arms of White, impaling Walsh, sculptured on the holy-water stoup

<sup>1</sup> This stone, having been purchased by the Rev. A. B. Rowan, D.D., has been deposited by him in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy.—Eds.

of the Friary Chapel, Lady-lane, Waterford. On either side were the names, Jacobus White, and Hellen Welshe, beneath was the date, 1626.

Mr. Graves laid before the Society, by permission of the marquis of Ormonde, two interesting documents, from the Evidence Chamber, Kilkenny Castle. He observed that the Edmond Meara, whose name appears at the close of the subjoined letter, was probably the son or nephew of Dermot O'Meara, a physician, of Ballyragget, who composed a Latin poem on Thomas, the tenth earl of Ormonde, printed in 1615. Edmond seems to have followed Dermot's profession, and his letter to the duke of Ormonde, now verging towards his last days, and suffering from "noise and palpitation," arising from "y<sup>e</sup> splene," is a curious example of the medical practice of the period, and of cautious professional advice. The receipt for "spleene broth," found with Meara's letter, although written in a different hand, has an addition in the writing of the former:—

"Dublin, 2 Januar., 1674.

"May it please yo<sup>r</sup> Grace—I am not apt to believe y<sup>t</sup> diett and exercise alone will helpe [ . . . ],<sup>1</sup> and since nothing hath as yett agreed with you better than yo<sup>r</sup> usuall pills ordered by Dr. ffennell, I think yo<sup>r</sup> Grace may do well to use them daily for tenne or twelve dayes in a lesser dose than hitherto: but besides in the very beginning of y<sup>e</sup> spring more bleeding will be of absolute necessity. My Lord, I would gladly know whether y<sup>e</sup> night you took y<sup>e</sup> pills sent from heare, you were that night in good measure free from y<sup>e</sup> noise and palpitation, if so it is possible they may be so ordered as to work according to your mind, and produce that effect also. Yo<sup>r</sup> Grace believes and it is my judgm<sup>t</sup> that both these symptoms proceede originally from y<sup>e</sup> splene which in one season seldome admitts of a cure; and comonly y<sup>e</sup> last recourse is to minerall waters, whereof yo<sup>r</sup> Grace may have choice either in England or Ireland, where yo<sup>r</sup> affairs will require your aboad: this is y<sup>e</sup> sence and humble advice of, my Lord, your Graces faithful serv<sup>t</sup>.

"EDM. MEARA."

The letter was addressed—"to his Grace the Duke of Ormond, at Kilkenny Castle." Endorsed, in the Duke's hand—"Dr. Meara 2 of Jan. 74, rec. 3 [Jan.]." The seal, three lions passant guardant palewise, within a bordure semé of crescents. Accompanying this letter was the following recipe:—

"To make y<sup>e</sup> spleene broth used by my lady of Thurles by Doctor ffennells direction:—

"Tak a good bige coke chickin or younge pullet with a little peece of a knole of veale, put y<sup>m</sup> in 3 quarts of water, let y<sup>m</sup> boyle and skim it very well, then putt in these ingrediences following: mayden hayre, seaterike, harts tonge, agremony, pellepodium of y<sup>e</sup> oake well scraped and stiff, halfe an ounce, a few reons of y<sup>e</sup> sunne stoned, a little anneseeds, with a blade of mase, and a sprige of rosemary. Let these all boyle, Lett haelfe the broth be consumed, y<sup>n</sup> take haelfe a pint of this broth in y<sup>e</sup> morninge, and as much in y<sup>e</sup> afternoone about 4 or five a cloke.' (In a different hand) 'The barke of y<sup>e</sup> roote of capers, and y<sup>e</sup> middle barke of tameriske as much as of each of y<sup>e</sup> other engredients to be added in y<sup>e</sup> making of this broth: half a drame of cramer tartar to be dessolved in every dose.'"

Mr. J. F. Ferguson, conservator of the records of the court of exchequer, Dublin, and the efficient local correspondent of the Society,

<sup>1</sup> The original is here injured by damp.

forwarded for exhibition a portion of the original roll of common pleas, held before Roger Outlaw, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in Ireland, and lieutenant of John Darcy le Cosyn, justice of Ireland, 4th Edward III. The membrane contained the record of a curious custom of the ancient feudal law, namely, that of the appeal or trial of battle; in this case the appellant or challenger was a lady, viz. Avelina, widow of John de Bermingham, who accused a number of persons, apparently amongst the most respectable proprietors of Louth, comprising the Gernouns of Gernonstown (now Castle Bellingham), the Haddesors, Clyntons, Cusaks; Everards, Pypards, &c., of the murder of her husband, and appealing them, or demanding the wager of battle (of course by her champion or champions) against them. The accused did not appear, and were ordered to be attached by the sheriff. The accused, indeed, seem to have formed too powerful a faction to be within the reach of the law, for the sheriff returns that they repelled (*deforcnaverunt*) his officers *vi et armis*, so that they scarce escaped with their lives. The *posse committatus* is then ordered out, and the sheriff in person at its head desired to execute the attachment; but he fails, and the widowed Avelina in vain appears at Cashel, Trim, and Dublin, and elsewhere, seeking for justice against the slayers of her husband. The record is, unfortunately, imperfect towards the end, and the final result is not ascertainable.

Mr. Graves said that the history of this interesting fragment of the national records was invested with (to the student of Irish history) a sad interest. It so happened that, through the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, rector of Clyst St. George, in Devonshire, and one of the members of this Society, Mr. Ferguson came to the knowledge that in the chateau of a German gentleman, the baron de Lassberg, on the lake of Constance, in Switzerland, there were laid up many of the ancient national records of Ireland, the baron having bought them from a Frankfort Jew, a dealer in such matters, some years since. Mr. Ferguson had laid the matter before the authorities in England, in order to give the nation the option of recovering its property. With a supineness perfectly unaccountable, however, no notice was taken of the matter; and Mr. Ferguson, unwilling that such precious documents should be lost, proceeded, at his own expense, in the course of last summer, to the baron de Lassberg's Swiss castle, and succeeded in purchasing from him the manuscripts in question. How or at what time they were stolen from our Irish record depositories, Mr. Ferguson was unable to learn, although he proceeded to Frankfort on his return, for that purpose. But he (Mr. Graves) could not help saying, that the entire occurrence was calculated to awaken government to the present disgraceful state of the public records in Ireland. When such a fraud as caused the abstraction of such documents as those in question, was possible, how could we be sure that any of them were safe. Fire had done its work on some of the records; damp was and is, slowly but surely, working the defacement of others; and peculation may be still at work, whilst one depository was until lately in the care of a common porter! Lord chancellors and lord chief justices, their *legal guardians*, recked little of their loss or gain—whilst *their* underlings again delegated their duty to inferior hands, until at

last responsibility became so much divided that it was inoperative. Was such a state of things to last much longer?

Mr. Ferguson also forwarded the accounts rendered into the Irish court of exchequer by the seneschals (at that time equivalent to our sheriffs) of Kilkenny, in the 45th and 46th years of Henry III., together with the following very curious *morceau*, being a copy of a transcript from the original parchment document in the British Museum (Cotton. MSS. Titus, B. xi.), of the 20th year of Hen. VI.

"The Lordes spiritual and temporall of your said Londe and the Commons of the same in your Parlement holden at Develyn the Fryday next after the fest of St. Martyn in Wynter last passed were fully advysed and assented that I & my fellow messe<sup>rs</sup> for the said Londe should desyre of you, sov'ain Lorde, to ordeyn a myghtye<sup>1</sup> of this youre Realm of Englande for to be your Lieutenn<sup>t</sup> of your said Londe; that tyme beyng there present the Erle of Ormond as Deputy to the Lorde Welles then your Lieut<sup>nt</sup> there. Please it your Highnesse to be enformed howe that if it had be [iseyn] goode & profitable for you & for your seide Londe for to have hade the said Erle yo<sup>r</sup> Lieuten<sup>t</sup> he should have been named at the said Parlement, gyving you to understand that they all both Lordes spiritual & temporall & Commons there assembled considered in their wisdome that it was moste expedient to your sov'ain Lorde to have to your Lieuten<sup>t</sup> there a Lorde of the birth of this your noble Realme, whom yo<sup>r</sup> people shew woll more favour & obey than to any man of that Londes birth. For men of this Realme kepe better Justice, execute your Laws, & favour more your common people & ever have done before thys tyme better than ever dyd any man of that Londe or ever is like to do. And please it your Highnesse to consider howe that it behoveth that he that shoulde be your Lieut<sup>nt</sup> there be a mighti courageous & laborous man to kepe the felde & and to make resistance against yo<sup>r</sup> Enemyes in comforte & supportac'on of your true Lege people there, and none of thes ben seyn ne founde in y<sup>e</sup> sd Erle for both hee is aged unwieldy & unlusty [ . . . ] hath for lak of labour loste in substance all his castelles towns & Lorde-shippes that he had within your said Londe, wherefore it is not likely that he shoulde conquer ne get eny grounds to your sov'ain Lord that thus hath lost his own. [ . . . ] Moreover plesse it you to wete that at dyvers Parlements when that the said Erle hath the rule there he hath ordeyned & made Irissh men & gromes & pages of his householde Knyghtes of the Shyre, the which wolde not in no wyse assent to no goode rule nor to no thing that shulde profite & avaylle to your sovran Lorde, and also hath suffered dyvers Lordes sp'ual & temporal to absent them from Parlements hereafore, takyng of them greate fynes to his singular avaylle there, as the profit should be youre."

This document has been alluded to by Leland in his "History of Ireland," vol. ii. p. 27, but, as Mr. Ferguson believes, never published in full.

Albert Way, Esq., forwarded a transcript of a very curious letter of the thirteenth century, from the archives of Canterbury Cathedral, being an epistle from David, bishop of Emly, to the prior of Christ's Church, Canterbury, in favour of David, treasurer of Emly, who had been entrusted with the suit of the said prior, against the prior of St. John's, Kilkenny, in the matter of the parishes of SS. Evin and Mary, of New Ross, then the property of the Canterbury monastic house. The bishop concludes by expressing his intention of visiting the shrine of St. Thomas, the martyr, ere he returned to Ireland. David O'Tussigh, abbot of Holy Cross, was elected bishop of Emly in 1275, and died in 1281. The letter is preserved in the treasury at Canterbury (*Cartæ Antiquæ* I. 240), and is as follows, the contracted words being here given *in extenso* :—

<sup>1</sup> *Sic*—the word "man" or "lord" probably omitted.

Frater D. miseratione divina Imelacensis episcopus venerabili viro ac religioso Fratri [blank] Priori Ecclesie Christi Cantuar' salutem in salutis auctore. Noverit discretio vestra quod nos execucionem sententie late quondam per Thesaurarium Lyssmore nobis per Romanum Pontificem comissam pro domo vestra contra Priorem et fratres domus sancti Johannis de Kylken' in solidum comissimus magistro David Thesaurario Ecclesie nostre, quem vestri gratia curialiter in domo vestra una cum socio suo admissistis, qui plenarie dictam execucionem, mittendo vestros procuratores in possessionem Ecclesiarumstrarum Sancti Ewyni et Sancte Marie de nova Ross cum pertinentiis, est executus, dictos priorem et fratres Kylken' propter eorum rebellionem, contradictionem, inobedienciam mandato Apostolico nobis super dictam execucionem directo, cum suis fautoribus vinculo excommunicationis innodando, super quibus missione et execucione pretextu dicte execucionis factis multa dampna in rebus suis dictus noster clericus a regalibus ad petitionem dictorum prioris et conventus de Kylken' passus est, quare oportuit nos per mandatum Justic' Hibernie de exitibus prebende sue per triennium eidem respondere, de cujus prebende sue exitibus per dictum terminum nullum denarium nobis ad huc percepit. Quare vos rogamus, quatenus si placet ad honestatem curialitatis vestre observandam et ob salutem anime vestre, dum nemini beneficium necnon et officium debet esse juxta juris formam dampnosum, eundem magistrum commissarium nostrum super suis deperditis et dampnis, maxime cum moram trahit in scol', respicere velitis, vobis significantes, quod si aliquid super est ad agendum in dicta execucione, quod ipse juxta juris formam voluntatem vestram adimplebit, et antequam ad partes Hibernie accesserimus Tumbam beati Thome Martiris per dei gratiam visitare intendimus.<sup>1</sup> Valet.

Mr. Prim read a paper on the Market Cross of Kilkenny, which will be found printed at p. 219, *ante*.

Mr. Hitchcock communicated Notes made in the Archæological Court of the Great Exhibition of 1853, which are given at p. 280, *ante*.

<sup>1</sup> The last sentence, regarding a proposed visit by bishop David to the shrine of St. Thomas, is in paler coloured ink, and al-

though perhaps by the same hand as the rest of the letter, it seems to have been a postscript.